



Dear Reader,

We wish you a Happy New Year and successful attainment of the goals you set for it!

We are glad to present the new issue of the DeLoG newsletter with the latest activities of the network and news on upcoming events as well as course announcements and recent publications.

Two of the highlights of the past few months for DeLoG were participating in the Africities Summit and running the e-learning course 'Enhancing Development Effectiveness for Decentralisation and Local Governance', in which 40 development practitioners took part. We also want to draw your attention to our upcoming Joint Learning Event on Local Governance and Sustaining Peace, the applications for which are accepted until January 16, 2019.

All the best,

Your DeLoG Team

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## DeLoG Activities

### In Profile - Interview with Edgardo Bilsky (UCLG)



Edgardo Bilsky is Director of Research in the World Secretariat of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). In this interview, Edgardo Bilsky elaborates on enabling institutional factors for leaving no one behind as well as the most promising and hindering issues one can identify on the local governance level. Moreover, he discusses which structures leave enough room for innovation and where innovative approaches towards

sustainability on the local and regional level come from. Edgardo also sheds light on how the contribution of local and regional governments has been changing over the recent years regarding 'localising the SDGs'. Additionally, the readers can learn more on the World Observatory on Subnational Finance and Investment. Finally, Edgardo provides an overview of the goals UCLG sets for 2019.

[» For more information, please click here](#)

## The DeLoG Network Ensures that 'No One is Left Behind' in Marrakesh



In late November, the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 Secretariat of the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG), together with United Cities and Local Governments, organised a

session on the topic 'Leave No One Behind – by localising the 2030 Agenda'.

[» For more information, please click here](#)

## Joint Learning Event on Local Governance and Sustaining Peace



When: 12-15 March 2019

Where: Brussels, Belgium

DeLoG's next Joint Learning Event on Local Governance and Sustaining Peace will take place on March 12-15,

2019 in Brussels. It is organised under the lead of UNDP, UNICEF and SDC and hosted by Enabel. The learning event will provide insights on the nexus between local governance and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The course will be divided into three main topics: the nexus between local governance and sustaining peace, the localisation of service delivery and its impact on state legitimacy; and the relationship between local governance and social cohesion. The topic of local economic development will be integrated as well. The target group is staff (headquarters and practitioners in the field) from DeLoG member organisations who work in the context of local governance and sustaining peace in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The number of participants is limited to 30. Registration is open on the DeLoG Website from until January 16, 2019.

[» For more information, please click here](#)

## Tutored E-learning Course on 'Enhancing Development Effectiveness for Decentralisation and Local Governance'



DeLoG's e-learning course on Enhancing Development Effectiveness for Decentralisation and Local Governance took place from October 1 to December 3, 2018. During the e-learning course two webinars were conducted that addressed 'Decentralisation & Local Governance in fragile and conflict-affected settings' as well as 'Localising the SDGs'. The recordings of the webinars are available on our website. Because of the high interest in this

course, we plan to offer it again in 2019. Further information on the upcoming course will be published on the DeLoG website.

» For more information, please click here

## News from Our Members and Partners

### Second Steering Committee of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment

On 17 December 2018, UCLG co-chaired with the OECD the 2nd Steering Committee of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment. The co-founders and the co-chairs of the Observatory welcomed the DeLoG Network and the Council of Europe's Development Bank as parties of the initiative.



The Observatory is now able to cover up to 130 countries, with an improved level of analysis on subnational tiers of governments and their diverse role and functioning. The partners committed to the next steps, finalising the harmonisation of country profiles, developing the first report of the Observatory, creating a website to facilitate access to data, and preparing the International Conference of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment, to be held on June 17, 2019, in Paris.

» Formoreinformation,pleaseclickhere

### Venice City Solutions 2018 - Financing the SDGs at Local Level



This first edition of the "Venice City Solutions – Financing the SDGs at Local Level" aimed to explore how to make SDGs a reality for all starting from the local level. On November 16-17, 2018, it brought together over 100 representatives of central governments, local and regional government associations, mayors, governors and

development partners to identify existing experiences, gathering data and providing solutions to the challenge of how to finance the implementation of the SDGs at local level. The final report touches upon the key points of the discussions and provides recommendations.

» For more information, please click here

# The World Forum on Urban Violence Calls On Cities to Grow Into Their Role As Peacekeepers

The second edition of the World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace was held in Madrid. United Cities and Local Governments was part of the organising committee of the event, which gathered over 5000 participants from which around 400 were local and regional government

officials from more than 35 different countries. The outcome document of the forum, the **Commitment to the Agenda of Cities for Coexistence and Peace**, expanded upon the line of work that had been opened during the first forum, which explored the links between SDGs 11 and 16: between building sustainable, resilient cities, and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.



» For more information, please click here

## UCLG Council Meeting 2018: Sharing Regional Insights in Global Platform



On November 5-8 2018, UCLG ASPAC attended the UCLG World Council and the second edition of the World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace, held in Madrid, Spain. The event was a global gathering of local leaders, international organisations, academics, NGOs and civil society networks, who participated in a joint process of debate, reflection and construction of common solutions that foster urban environments capable of eliminating all expressions of violence. It also provided a unique opportunity for UCLG members to share successful efforts in achieving the global agendas and consolidating the message of peace and coexistence at the international level.

» For more information, please click here

## Local Councils at the Center of the Response to the Refugee Crisis in Cameroon

The article by the World Bank evaluates how to help local councils in Cameroon play a more proactive role in the management of the refugee crises. As the situation becomes protracted, local councils in Cameroon are overstretched and do not have the capacities to meet the needs of both host communities and refugees, partially due to the lack of coordination of refugee camp managers.





Local authorities are being empowered, but hurdles remain with regards to the full transfer of financial resources and the availability of qualified human resources needed to allow local governments to fulfill their functions.

[» For more information, please click here](#)

## Realizing Tunisia's Arab Spring Aspirations: Celebrating More Accountable and Better Performing Municipal Governments

This article highlights the practical consequences of decentralisation in Tunisia. Since 2015, the people and Government of Tunisia have introduced reforms to increase the autonomy, transparency, accountability and efficiency of municipalities, with the support of the



World Bank through the Urban Development and Local Governance Program for Results and the Moussanada Multi-Donor Trust Fund financed by the European Union and Swiss Cooperation. Since 2015, Tunisian municipalities have been accorded greater autonomy in planning their own investments through a new system of unconditional performance-based grants, and one can already witness particular positive changes.

[» For more information, please click here](#)

## Additional News

### You Need Local Data

According to the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), there are increasing calls for urban and rural communities to access and use local-level data for informed decision making, planning, accountability and mobilisation. The article brings up examples of civil society organisations calling for greater access to local-level environmental data and organisations amplifying the call for localised data to track progress on the SDGs. IISD's Peg Community Indicator System curates over 60 indicators to measure community well-being and sustainability related to the seven themes of the built and natural environments, health, basic needs, economy, governance and social vitality and education.



[» For more information, please click here](#)

## Second Annual Meeting of the Malaga Coalition on Municipal Investment Finance

When: 7-8 March 2019

Where: Malaga, Spain

The main purpose of the meeting is to advocate for a global financial ecosystem that works for municipal and local governments and that brings the necessary resources to local and regional governments to accelerate implementation of Agenda 2030. This second meeting will assess challenges and opportunities for local and regional governments to gain access to capital in local and international capital markets. Partners will also debate concrete actions and initiatives to expand financial tools and capital available for local governments to bridge their financing gaps in achieving the SDGs. The Malaga meeting will bring together finance ministers, mayors, development and commercial banks, international organizations, NGOs and development agencies.

Second Annual Meeting of the Malaga Coalition on Municipal Investment Finance



» For more information, please click here

## Day of Cities



When: 8 April 2019

Where: Geneva, Switzerland

The Day of Cities will bring together mayors, urban managers and other key municipal practitioners for an exchange of views and knowledge sharing of good practices and successful planning strategies. In two roundtables, participants will discuss approaches on how to create smart sustainable cities, focusing on ways to improve the quality of life of people and on improving efficiency of urban operations, services and competitiveness. The Day of Cities precedes the 68th meeting of the UNECE Commission, which will be held on 9-10 April 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

» For more information, please click here

## Europe for Her



When: 21 January 2019

Where: Brussels, Belgium

Women remain underrepresented in local decision-making across the EU. This leads to a lack of awareness of gender-related issues and thus to a lack of action to address the obstacles that adversely impact women in their daily lives. As a step for change, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) will bring together a number of locally elected representatives, local leaders and experts, in order to exchange best practices and stir new ideas on how women can be empowered at local level in both politics and society. The aim is to present a set of policy recommendations to the 350 locally elected members of the CoR during the plenary session of February 2019.

» For more information, please click here

# THINK EUROPE: Commitment 2030



When: 16-18 January 2019

Where: Soria, Spain

The city of Soria will once again be at the center of

European politics on January 16th, 17th and 18th. This edition will focus on the role of intermediary cities. The event will consist of presentations, panel discussions and roundtables on the following topics: Multilevel dialogues on sustainable development strategies; Intermediary cities and implementation mechanisms; Multilevel articulation of the 2030 Agenda in Europe; Global governance for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and others; Nexus between the urban and the rural; Urban space planning and management.

» For more information, please click here

## 8th European Summit of Regions and Cities

When: 14-15 March 2019

Where: Bucharest, Romania

The 8th European Summit of Regions and Cities, to be held in Bucharest, will gather EU, national, local and regional leaders from across Europe to discuss the future of the European Union and

how to involve the citizens more effectively in the European project through local and regional authorities. The summit will be co-organised by the European Committee of the Regions, the Romanian presidency of the Council of the European Union, and the Association of Municipalities of Romania. During the event, a declaration by local and regional leaders on the future of Europe will be adopted in order to share their voice ahead of the European elections and the next term of office of the EU institutions.



» For more information, please click here

## Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development

When: 2-4 May 2019

Where: Bonn, Germany

The Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development is a groundbreaking event, positioned to gather and inspire SDGs campaigners and multi-

stakeholder partners to scale up and broaden the global movement to take action for the SDGs. The Festival provides a dynamic and interactive space to showcase the latest innovations, tools and approaches to SDG advocacy and SDG action. It brings together leaders from governments, local authorities, international organisations, civil society, activists, young advocates, the creative industry and the private sector – to scale up the impact of their work and strategise joint actions, whilst motivating new organisations and individuals to join the movement and take action for the SDGs.



» For more information, please click here



**UNITED NATIONS  
SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE**

## UN System Staff College

» Decentralized Governance and  
Peacebuilding

Date: 25 March - 19 April 2019

Apply by: 18 March 2019

Place: Online

» UN Summer Academy

Date: 26-30 August 2019

Apply by: 12 August 2019

Place: Bonn, Germany



## The Hague Academy

» Migration and Local Governance

Date: 4-8 March 2019

Apply by: 21 January 2019

Place: The Hague, Netherlands

» Inclusive Local Service Delivery  
and the SDGs

Date: 18-29 March 2019

Apply by: 1 February 2019

Place: The Hague, Netherlands

» Summer Course:  
Decentralisation and the SDGs

Date: 1-5 July 2019

Apply by: 17 May 2019

Place: The Hague, Netherlands



## Swiss Peace

» Mediation & Peacemaking Course

Date: 1-2 March 2019

Apply by: 14 January 2019

Place: Basel, Switzerland

» Gender, Conflict & Peacebuilding Course

Date: 5-6 April 2019

Apply by: 31 January 2019

Place: Basel, Switzerland



## International Training Centre (ILO)

» Decent Work and the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development: How to achieve  
the Sustainable Development Goals through  
decent work

Date: 8-12 April 2019

Apply by: 8 April 2019

Place: Turin, Italy

» Governing Migration at Local Level

Date: 4-8 November 2019

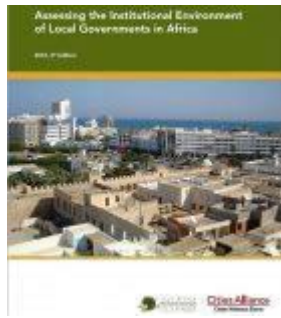
Apply by: 4 November 2019

Place: Turin, Italy



## Local Governance and Decentralisation

### Assessing the Institutional Environment of Local Governments in Africa

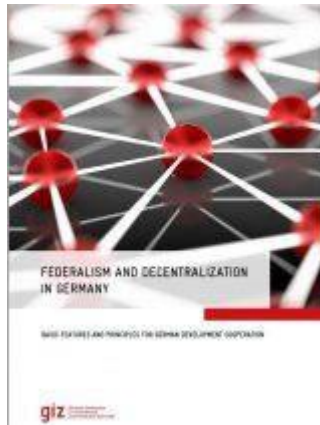


**UCLG Africa and Cities Alliance, 2018**

The 2018 edition covers 53 African countries, with the exclusion of Libya. It considers the original ten criteria for assessing the institutional environment of local authorities covered in the 2012 and 2015 editions and adds two new ones that align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. The two new criteria address the institutional environment put in place for women's participation in political life and governance of local communities, and the institutional environment created for the participation and contribution of local communities in the fight against climate change.

[» For more information, please click here](#)

### Federalism and Decentralization in Germany



**GIZ, 2018**

This study reviews the development of Germany's decentralisation system. Moreover, key principles and features of today's German federalism as well as recent reforms are presented. The focus is laid on implications for German development cooperation. Examples from lessons learned in Bolivia, Ukraine, Pakistan and Zambia illustrate applicability and possible transferability.

[» For more information, please click here](#)

### Multi-Level Climate Governance Supporting Local Action

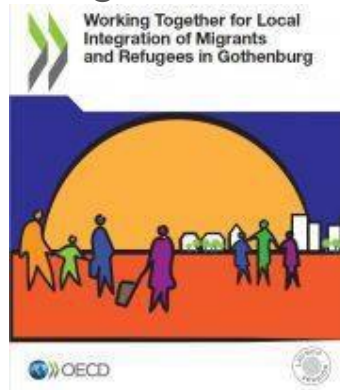


**GIZ, 2018**

The study analyses how different instruments for multi-level climate governance can support the realisation of local climate mitigation and adaptation potentials. The paper distinguishes between multi-level climate governance frameworks, i.e. the overarching governance system within which different levels of government interact in a country, and multilevel climate governance instruments, i.e. the specific platforms, initiatives, funding mechanisms, and action plans that are implemented to support climate action at the local level. South Africa, Brazil, India and Colombia are presented as country case studies.

[» For more information, please click here](#)

## Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Gothenburg



**OECD, 2018**

Migration is not a new phenomenon in Gothenburg, with nearly 41.7% of migrant residents having arrived more than 10 years ago. The Gothenburg municipality has a significant track record in managing the impact of migration on local demand for work, housing, goods and services, cultural and linguistic diversity, and other parts of daily life. This report presents the way Gothenburg municipality and its state and non-state partners are addressing migrant integration

issues and opportunities. It compiles data and qualitative evidence on how local integration efforts are designed and implemented within a multi-level governance framework.

» For more information, please click here

## Fiscal Decentralisation • Local Finance

### Tax Reform for Low Income Countries: Five Ideas for Simplifying Tax Systems to Fit Local Realities



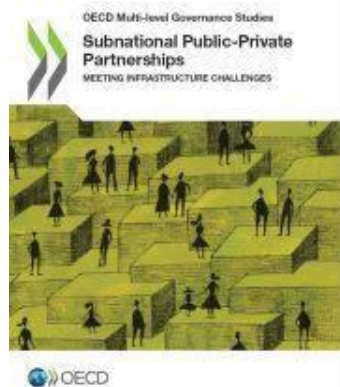
**The International Centre for Tax and Development, 2018**

The summary brief focuses on a subset of possibilities for reform linked by a common unifying idea: simplification. Rather than repeating the familiar story about the need to increase administrative capacity to improve tax collection, it highlights simplification to better align revenue collection practices with the reality of limited tax administration capacity in many low-income countries. The brief views with criticism the value of elaborate procedures, so-called best practice, and the latest

technology. Instead, the authors look for practices and procedures that are easy to implement and 'good enough' in terms of revenue collection and equity.

» For more information, please click here

## Subnational Public-Private Partnerships



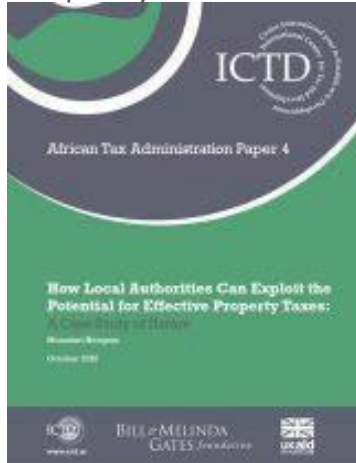
**OECD, 2018**

This report focuses on the challenges of governing infrastructure investment and public-private partnerships (PPPs) at the subnational level. In a tight fiscal environment, it is critical to diversify sources of financing for infrastructure investment and PPPs represent an alternative to traditional government procurement with the potential to improve value for money. However, PPPs are complex and sometimes risky arrangements that require capacity that is

not always readily available in government, in particular at the subnational level. This report examines the challenges of using PPPs at the subnational level and ways to address them. It does so by focusing on three case studies: subnational PPPs in France, local Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects in the United Kingdom, and PPPs in Virginia, United States.

» For more information, please click here

## How Local Authorities Can Exploit the Potential for Effective Property Taxes: A Case Study of Harare



**The International Centre for Tax and Development, 2018**

This paper explores administrative challenges that developing countries face in property tax administration. It is in the public interest and the interest of all governments to support the activities of local authorities on revenue collection. The author identified that the main source of revenue for the City of Harare is property tax. Property tax has the potential to perform better given the boom in urban population. Despite the potential of property tax, it has not

been able to generate more revenue because local authorities lack capacity and face a number of challenges. This paper argues that, in addition to solutions intended to resolve the usual technical and political difficulties associated with property taxation, it is crucial for Harare to improve systems for property taxation.

» For more information, please click here

## 2030 Agenda • Localising the SDGs

### Making Local Governance Inclusive for the 'Leave No One Behind' Agenda

**SDC-IDS Collaboration on Poverty, Politics and Participatory Methodology, 2018**

The briefing note focuses on the impact of decentralised local governments on marginalised people. The inclusiveness of the 'leave no one behind' principle is central. Therefore, good data and information quality is necessary. Decentralisation supports mitigating inequality across population groups and regions. Entry points for more inclusiveness might be quotas for marginalised populations and more effective accountability relationships.

» For more information, please click here



#### Making Local Governance Inclusive for the 'Leave No One Behind' Agenda

What do we know about the impact of decentralised local governments on marginalised groups?  
A study of decentralised governance in five African countries shows that decentralisation can have a positive impact on the lives of marginalised groups, but only if it is implemented in a way that is inclusive and participatory. The study found that decentralisation can improve the lives of marginalised groups by increasing their access to services and resources, and by giving them a voice in the decision-making process. However, decentralisation can also have negative impacts if it is implemented in a way that is not inclusive and participatory. For example, decentralisation can lead to the concentration of power in the hands of a few individuals, which can result in the marginalisation of other groups. Therefore, it is important to ensure that decentralisation is implemented in a way that is inclusive and participatory, and that it is supported by strong institutions and processes.

# Leave No One Behind: How Are Development Assistance Committee Members Answering the Pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

**OECD, 2018**

This working paper presents and analyses the findings of a survey circulated to members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) between April and May 2018. The survey investigated the level and extent of commitment to leave no one behind in development co-operation policies, strategies and programming. It also gathered views and evidence from DAC members about the comparative advantage, opportunities, challenges and strategies for answering this pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



» For more information, please click here

## Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2019 (Book)

**OECD, 2018**

The financing for sustainable development gap is growing. While needs continue to increase, resources available to developing countries have been constrained and in some cases even declining. New financial instruments and interactions have yet to mobilise much-needed new resources in sufficient volumes. To fulfil the commitments of the 2030 Agenda, the international community needs to maximise the development footprint of existing and future resources, thereby “shifting the trillions” towards the SDGs. This report charts a forward path for the changes required in measurement, policies, and operations to achieve these ambitious objectives.



» For more information, please click here

## The 2030 Agenda - An Unprecedented Statistical Challenge

**Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2018**

Although the 2030 Agenda's goals were agreed by all UN Member States, the process of selecting the performance indicators was effectively delegated to the global statistical community, which means that statisticians are defining the meaning of the 2030 Agenda targets and will thus be the ones to determine whether the Agenda is ultimately pronounced a success, a failure or something in-between. This paper offers insights into the unprecedented statistical challenge to the 2030 Agenda targets presented by this measurement framework and possible unintended consequences for countries, their statistical systems and the broader information ecosystem.



» For more information, please click here



# Development Co-operation Report 2018: Joining Forces to Leave No One Behind



The Development Assistance Committee: Creating effective development  
OECD

## OECD, 2018

Governments and stakeholders negotiating the 2030 Agenda backed the ambition of leaving no one behind, an ambition increasingly referred to in development policies, international agendas and civil society advocacy. Policy makers, civil society and business are asking for more clarity on how to ensure that no one is left behind in practice. Informed by the latest evidence on what it means to be left behind, this report adopts a wide range of perspectives and draws lessons from policies, practices and partnerships that work. The report proposes a holistic and innovative framework to shape and guide development co-operation policies and tools that are fit for the purpose of leaving no one behind.

» For more information, please click here

## Decentralised Cooperation to Achieve The 2030 Agenda



## CPMR & PLATFORMA, 2018

Development cooperation no longer lies only in the hands of public authorities. While non-governmental organisations might be the most traditional counterpart of governments in international aid and development cooperation in many countries, they are experiencing the rise of other players. The authors explain with concrete examples and case studies how local and regional governments strive towards leading this new era of development cooperation. The objectives of this study are to reinforce the new and innovative landscape and alliances for decentralised cooperation, taking into account the context of the 2030 Agenda and the EU answer to the territorial dimension.

» For more information, please click here

## Global Goals for Local Priorities: the 2030 Agenda at Local Level

### Nordregio, 2018

This report identifies 27 Nordic local authorities that are “first movers” in working with the 2030 Agenda and describes their priorities and activities. It also highlights challenges and success factors in working with the SDGs. The aim of this report is to provide local authorities with ideas on how to implement the 2030 Agenda and to inform experts and policy makers at national and regional levels on how to support the municipalities in their work.



» For more information, please click here

## A Toolbox for Local Governments to Implement SDG 5 on Gender Equality



### Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy, 2018

This policy brief summarises the findings from the ICLD's investigation into SDG 5, and the efforts to turn this global goal into local policies and practice in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). It offers a toolbox for local governments to implement SDG 5 on gender equality. The brief argues that gender sensitive policies and gender equality are key elements of democratic governance, necessary for stable development and security in any community. The toolbox developed in this report provides knowledge,

strategies and inspiration on how to operationalise gender equality at the local level.

» For more information, please click here

## Urban & Territorial Governance

### Implementing the Commitment to 'Leaving No One Behind' in Cities

#### Paula Lucci, ODI, 2018

This background paper explores what is new about the principle of leaving no one behind, and how local and national governments can act to ensure national progress towards achieving the SDGs. Cities play a crucial role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to leave no one behind. They concentrate large proportions of the population and are sites of deep inequalities. Local urban stakeholders have responsibilities related to the delivery of many of the agenda's goals. Moreover, in many developing countries in Africa and Asia, urban areas are growing rapidly, with large sections of the population living in informality. Unless this process is managed in an inclusive way and basic services are provided for the most vulnerable populations, they are likely to be left even further behind.



» For more information, please click here

# The Urban Dimension of Six Global Agreements: A Critical Reflection

The Urban Dimension of Six Global Agreements: A Critical Reflection



iied International Institute for Environment and Development

## International Institute for Environment and Development, 2018

This brief explores how the global agreements relate to cities and reflects on the extent to which they provide a framework for action on sustainable urban development that can be brought into and implemented by governments at the national, local and regional level. It proposes potential ways to use the global frameworks to better

engage local actors to contribute to more inclusive, sustainable cities. It is part of the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme for Cities in the Global Agendas.

» For more information, please click here

## Cities for Sustainable Global Development

### German Development Institute (DIE), 2018

The World Cities Day 2018 took place in October and its theme was 'Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities'. This directly refers to the SDG 11. The column draws attention on the importance of cities by highlighting that cities are often affected by major challenges and simultaneously are part of the solution. Cities produce the majority of the world's economic output but are responsible for the majority of global greenhouse gas emissions and global energy consumption. The question whether cities and municipalities be better partners for implementing sustainable global or urban development is addressed.



» For more information, please click here

## Developing Urban Futures



### Urban Age, 2018

The newspaper for the 17th Urban Age Conference in Addis Ababa consists of different essays. The topics range from 'On hold with Jakarta' to 'Africa's Urban Transformation'. Challenges for cities worldwide and especially African cities are analysed. It shows that decentralisation without financing and local capacity is a major issue. Decentralisation needs a political will.

» For more information, please click here



DECENTRALISATION &  
LOCAL GOVERNANCE

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