



DECENTRALISATION & LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Dear Reader,

2015 was a crucial year for the international sustainable development agenda. The importance of the local level and subnational governments has been reiterated in the AAAA, the Agenda 2030 and the COP21 agreements. For 2016 it will be critical to give cities and local governments a strong role in the New Urban Agenda to be agreed at Habitat III in October. In profile we feature Marija de Wijn, DeLoG focal point of UNICEF.

We wish you a pleasant reading, and a good start into the new year.

Your Delog Team

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Content

DeLoG Activities

- DeLoG at Africities
- In-Profile: Interview with Marija De Wijn (UNICEF)
- Learn4Dev: Joint Learning Event on Fragility, Decentralisation and Local Governance took place in The Hague
- Courses

News from our Member Organisations

- Urban Systems and Urban Development in the People's Republic of China
- Leveraging Urbanization for Prosperity and Livability
- Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality
- Guiding Principles for Climate City Planning Action
- Women working together in suburban Cuba
- Stronger local public institutions to reduce poverty

International Debate

- The UN Climate Change Conference 2015 (COP21-CMP11)
 - Statements
 - The COP21 Agreement
- UCLG City of Bogotá Peace Prize
- Decentralisation process in Ukraine
- Habitat III Policy Unit debates
- New releases of the Development and Peace Foundation

Courses

- Swisspeace
- The Hague Academy for Local Governance
- World Bank e-Institutue

Studies

- Local Governance and Decentralisation
- Service Delivery
- 2030 Agenda
- Urban Governance

Contact,
Newsletter & Website

■ DeLoG Activities

DeLoG at Africities



Urban Agenda (NUA) at Habitat III.

The 7th Africities Summit took place in Johannesburg from 29th Nov.-3rd Dec. DeLoG hosted together with the Cities Alliance an Open Session on “Local Governance and the role of Inclusive Partnerships for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)”. The session discussed the role of decentralisation and local governance (DLG) to successfully implement the SDGs at the local level and how to create enabling national frameworks for DLG and sustainable urban development, in the light of the upcoming New

On the 2nd December together with the Cities Alliance, DeLoG hosted the Development Partners Debate which fed into the tripartite political dialogue amongst Ministers, Mayors and Development Partners, at the end of the summit. The purpose of the session was to have an open debate about the state of decentralisation, the necessary related reforms that would make a decisive contribution to Africa’s socio-economic transformation and the role of Development Partners, Ministers and Mayors. The outcomes of the debate were delivered as a statement to Ministers and Mayors in the tripartite session on 3rd December.

[» Read the Declaration of Development Partners to Africities 7th edition](#)

In-Profile: Interview with Marija De Wijn



Marija De Wijn is a local governance specialist with UNICEF HQ in New York. In this position, Marija supports UNICEFs work on DLG through the development of internal strategy documents, formulation of technical guidance for UNICEF country offices as well as through the strengthening of partnerships. With regard to her work and experience we asked Marija questions amongst others on the links between UNICEF and DLG as well as we talked with her about how DLG measures could help to improve people's living conditions in fragile countries or in refugee camps. The DeLoG secretariat had the pleasure to get in touch with her personally, for instance on our last Annual Meeting in Bonn and on our Joint Learning Event on “Fragility, Decentralisation and Local Governance”. Therefore we were curious on her personal experience and satisfaction with us and the DeLoG Network. If you want to read more, follow the link below.

[» Read the full interview](#)

Learn4Dev: Joint Learning Event on „Fragility, Decentralisation And Local Governance” took place in The Hague



From the 9th – 11th of November the DeLoG Learn4Dev Joint Learning Event on „Fragility, Decentralisation and Local Governance“ took place in The Hague, Netherlands, hosted by VNG International and jointly conducted with The Hague Academy for Local Governance. More than 20 participants from development partner organisations such as UNDP, UNICEF, BTC, MAE, GIZ, SDC, LUX-DEV and VNG International came together to discuss current developments and strategic approaches for Decentralisation and Local Governance (DLG) in fragile contexts. The topics of the

seminar were amongst others: "Unpacking dimensions of fragility", "State- and peacebuilding" or "M&E of DLG in fragile contexts". The report will be available soon.

- » [Read the course program](#)
- » [Watch the Interview of Murielle Hermouet, a participant from BTC](#)

(Click on the subtitles logo to have the English translation)

■ News from our Member Organisations

Urban Systems and Urban Development in the People's Republic of China



The People's Republic of China (PRC) is experiencing a trend toward population concentration in its large coastal cities. However, at the same time, there is also a distortion of city size toward small cities in the country. That is to say, the urban population in the PRC should further concentrate in large cities rather than be more equally spread out. Cross-country analysis indicates that the population size of the primary city in the PRC is smaller than its predicted value. This paper suggests that the PRC government should adjust its policies on future urbanization for fewer restrictions on the further growth of megacities.

- » [Link to the document](#)

Leveraging Urbanization for Prosperity and Livability



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Pakistan is the most highly urbanized of South Asia's major economies and, over the next 30 years, it is forecast that the number of people living in the country's towns and cities will nearly double from 72.9 million to 155.7 million. Increasing urbanization has important implications for the economy, the environment, infrastructure and basic services. This was discussed at the Third Pakistan Urban Forum – an annual gathering of urban policymakers, practitioners, scholars and students – in Lahore.

- » [Link to the document](#)

Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality



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The Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality (UFGE) is a multidonor facility established in 2012 to strengthen awareness, knowledge, and capacity for gender-informed policy making. The UFGE promotes results by equipping policy makers and development experts with data, knowledge, and evidence. This is all made possible with generous support from the governments of Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

- » [Link to the document](#)

Guided Principles for Climate City Planning Action



The Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning reviews typical steps in the city-level climate action planning process in light of a proposed set of globally applicable principles. These principles, shown below, developed through a robust and open multi-stakeholder process, support local officials, planners and stakeholders in climate action planning¹. Such plans aim to help cities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adopt low emission development trajectories, as well as adapt to the impacts of climate change and build local climate resilience.

These Guiding Principles are intended to be applied flexibly, together with more detailed ‘how to’ manuals, to help cities more effectively play their role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience.

[» Link to the document](#)

Women working together in suburban Cuba



Cuba’s history of implementing comprehensive social protection programmes has largely resulted in the eradication of hunger and poverty. It is one of the most successful countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and was ranked 44th of the 187 countries in the 2014 UNDP Human Development Index.

[» Link to the document](#)

Stronger local public institutions to reduce poverty



The PORIS project (Poverty Reduction through Institutional Strengthening, 2009-2014) aimed at institutionalising commune-driven development in the framework of the Vietnamese Socio-Economic Development Plan. PORIS targeted decentralised government structures at Nghe An Province level, Quy Chau District level and Quy Chau’s Communes. Its objective was to contribute to a stronger public administration to manage pro-poor growth, poverty reduction and socio-economic development. This Reflection paper deals with the challenges and results of the PORIS project and provides lessons learned for further decentralization programs in Vietnam.

[» Link to the document](#)

■ International Debate

The UN Climate Change Conference 2015 (COP15 – CMP11)



From the 30th November – 12th December the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) together with the 11th Meeting of the Parties to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol (CMP11) took place in Paris, France.

As the European Union calls the COP21 a “Historic Climate Deal in Paris”, 195 countries agreed on the adoption of a new universal and legally binding global climate deal. The agreements entails a “long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to aim to limit the increase to 1.5°C, since this would significantly reduce risks and the impacts of climate change.” The conference parties agreed on the importance to support developing countries in undertaking rapid reductions on their emissions. Developed countries intend to continue their existing collective goal to mobilise USD 100 billion per year until 2025 when a new collective goal will be set.” The ADB underlined the Asia-Pacific-Region where with more than 4 billion people and a fast growing level of urbanization the region represents a key player.

The statement of ICLEI underlined the importance of the COP21 for subnational governments and actors. “Through this Agreement, local and subnational governments are recognized as essential actors in fast tracking transformative action in the urban world. The Paris Agreement reflects the success of local government advocacy, enshrining local and subnational actors within an international climate agreement for the first time. Cities and regions have been recognized, engaged and empowered, as the Local Government Climate Roadmap (LGCR) desired.”

To reflect the position of the mayors who represent the cities which are the core drivers for climate change, the C40 Chair and Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Eduard Paes, welcomed the results of Paris. In his statement, Mr. Paes highlighted that C40 mayors now feel even more validated to the work they are already doing through their commitment to the Compact of Mayors. “We will not be standing still in the years ahead to 2020. Rather, we will continue to lead innovation and investment in solutions, working in partnership with investors, businesses and other subnational actors; and we will do so with newfound confidence that national governments are behind us, ready to provide the finance, political leadership, and collaboration needed to navigate the road from Paris.”

» [Find the COP21 Agreement, with local action highlights provided by ICLEI, here.](#)

UCLG City of Bogotá Peace Prize



On November 19th the UCLG City of Bogotá Peace Prize for Local Governments has been presented in Bogotá (Colombia) by the organizing partners (the City of Bogotá, the Provincial Council of Barcelona, the Dutch NGO PAX and VNG International, the international cooperation agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities).

» [For more information on the conference please click here.](#)

Decentralisation in Ukraine



On October 25 the first local elections took place in 159 unified communities. Residents of unified communities elected local council heads and deputies. The date of elections of elders in settlements of these communities will be later defined by local councils. Until that time the functions of village elders will be performed by current village council heads. According to the European parliamentary delegation members and international observers, the elections were held in compliance with the international standards.

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

The European Union is ready to allocate 97 million euro to support decentralization in Ukraine. The funds will be targeted at training of highly-qualified specialists. According to the press-service of Lviv OSA, the statement was made by Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn during a press-conference in Lviv on November 19.

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

Habitat III Policy Unit Debates



From December 10-12 the Global Taskforce brought local government networks and Habitat III experts together in Barcelona to debate New Urban Agenda. As the full report of the meeting hasn't published so far, the UCLG World Secretariat put together a Storify, summarizing the social media activity on Twitter during the meetings.

[» For reading the Storify, please click here.](#)

New releases of the Development and Peace Foundation



From November 17-18 the Bonn Symposium 2015 on "Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals at the Local Level – Strategies and Mechanisms" took place in Bonn, Germany. The event aimed to provide a forum for a range of local stakeholders (policy-makers, administrators and civil society) to explore the opportunities and challenges arising from the new Sustainable Development Goals and, together, to discuss possible strategies and mechanisms for their implementation. The focus was in particular on the role of local sustainability strategies.

[» Find the Conference Report here.](#)

The fourth release of FOREIGN VOICES is dealing with the topic of the implementation of the SDGs and the roles and responsibilities of Municipalities.

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

■ Courses

Swisspeace



[Theory of Change in Fragile Contexts Training](#)

Date: 17th – 19th February 2016

Apply by: 31st December 2015

Place: Basel, Switzerland

While peacebuilding programs aim to contribute to relevant change and strengthen transitions out of fragility, they are often challenged on whether they do this strategically enough. Aid workers and peacebuilders are increasingly using theories of change to help organizations address these issues. Creating a detailed and explicit logic of intervention helps to identify gaps in programming, highlight assumptions that need to be tested, and provide a sound base for strategic choices that can increase effectiveness. Despite the widespread emergence of theories of change in strategy and project documents, they are rarely used to their full potential. This training focuses on how 'good' theories of change can be created that will help practitioners gain an in-depth understanding of their programs and their impacts.

The training is designed for peacebuilding, development and humanitarian practitioners and academics interested in bridging theory and concepts with practical knowledge, good practices and lessons learned from field-based use of theories of change.

Swisspeace



[Fragility, Conflict & Statebuilding Course](#)

Date: 4th – 8th April 2016

Apply by: 31st January 2015

Place: Basel, Switzerland

Fragile states have become an issue of major concern for the international community. They are least likely to make any substantial progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and are seen as being particularly prone to violent conflict. But what exactly is state fragility? This course focuses on the conceptual, policy and implementation challenges of statebuilding in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

This course is designed for practitioners and academics interested in bridging their own experiences with current conceptual insights and practical knowledge on fragility, conflict and statebuilding.

The Hague Academy for Local Governance

[Training Integrity and anti-corruption](#)



Date: 7th March – 18th March 2016

Apply by: 8th January 2016

Place: Netherlands, The Hague

Corruption is one of the root causes of extreme poverty, conflict and State fragility. It cripples States' ability to effectively deliver services and maintain the rule of law, it has strong adverse effects on the business climate and stands in the way of sustainable and equitable economic and

social development. Moreover, international research has repeatedly shown that poor people suffer most from corruption. Without serious efforts to integrate integrity and anti-corruption measures into development policies, the new sustainable development goals will not be reached.

This course helps you to understand the drivers of corruption and is geared towards strengthening your analytical skills and providing you with instruments to develop integrity and anti-corruption policies and programmes in line with recent international initiatives, legislation and agreements.

The Hague Academy for Local Governance

[>> Training Multilevel Water Governance](#)



Date: 4th April – 15th April 2016
 Apply by: 12th February 2016
 Place: Netherlands, The Hague

Water provision and governance of water systems are of a complex nature, involving many different stakeholders at different levels and shaped by the political and institutional context of a country. In many countries, reforms for effective water management are hampered by an unclear allocation of roles and responsibilities, territorial fragmentation and limited capacity at the local level.

The Hague Academy for Local Governance organizes a two-week, practice oriented training course on water governance in which leading international experts and practitioners provide you with a unique insight into international best practices and water governance tools. You will work actively to apply the five building blocks for sound water governance to your own context: a powerful administrative organisation, a legally embedded system, an adequate financing system and economic analyses of water services, a systematic planning approach and participation of stakeholders.

World Bank e-Institute



[>> Urban Crime and Violence Prevention](#)

Date: 8th March - 7th June 2016
 Apply by: 22th February 2016
 E-learning course

This e-learning course is organised modularly and covers topics that introduce and examine the conceptual and theoretical frameworks of crime and violence, situational crime and violence prevention with an emphasis on the methodology Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), as well as the various types of social prevention. Four practical modules, will train the participants how to design, implement and evaluate a crime and violence prevention strategy through a five-stage methodology and a series of hands-on, real-life exercises, diagnostics, development of multi-sectoral partnerships, community participation, design of a communication campaign and action plan, and monitoring and evaluation.

The course is designed for Urban practitioners, policymakers and city managers of various backgrounds and disciplines who are working on crime and violence prevention in Africa and the English-speaking Caribbean, as well as civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and international organizations.

■ Studies

Local Governance and Decentralisation

Decentralization in the Mashrek Region

Platforma (2015)

Decentralization has been one of the main tools advocated in recent years as a process for empowering local communities to engage more effectively in leading their own processes of development, improve service delivery, enhance social cohesion and, above all, support fundamental democratic changes. Many of these objectives have guided international aid programs in recent years. This paper aims at looking at how such processes have fared in the context of the Mashrek region of the Near East, with strong lessons learned for future aid programs, particularly those supported through the EU and other European bilateral programs. A broad review of current issues and themes has been presented to allow both regional stakeholders and European ones to open a discussion on the issue and build new visions and entry points for framing further cooperation on the issue.

[>> Download the paper here.](#)

Local Governments: Legitimate Actors for Development

CIB & UCLG (2015)

In the past decades, local governments and their associations have increased and enhanced their involvement in development co-operation, with a view to contributing to capacity development of local governments, to facilitate and strengthen decentralization and local development processes, and to contribute to poverty reduction and the attainment of international development goals. The international community is increasingly recognizing the considerable contributions that local governments make to development. There is a great variety in partnerships between local governments and their associations, and an important complementarity to other development cooperation interventions.

[>> Download the paper here.](#)

Service Delivery

Local Economy and Infrastructure Development Project

Kapanadze, Darejan, World Bank (2015)

The development objective of the Local Economy and Infrastructure Development Project for Armenia is to improve infrastructure services and institutional capacity for increased tourism contribution to local economy in selected regions of Armenia. Some of the negative impacts and mitigation measures include: (1) demolition debris shall be kept in controlled area and sprayed with water mist to reduce debris dust; (2) construction noise will be limited to restricted times agreed to in the permit; (3) the site will establish appropriate erosion and sediment control measures such as hay bales and or silt fences to prevent sediment from moving off site and causing excessive turbidity in nearby streams and rivers; (4) waste collection and disposal pathways and sites will be identified for all major waste types expected from demolition and construction activities; (5) temporarily storage on site of all hazardous or toxic substances will be in safe containers labeled with details of composition, properties, and handling information; (6) ensure appropriate storage facilities for medical waste are in place; and (7) active traffic management by trained and visible staff at the site, if required for safe and convenient passage for the public.

[>> Download the paper here.](#)

Regionalism in Services

Gootiiz, Batshur; Mattoo, Aaditya, World Bank (2015)

Can regionalism do what multilateralism has so far failed to do - promote greater openness of services markets? Although previous research has pointed to the wider and deeper legal commitments under regional agreements as proof that it can, no previous study has assessed the impact of such agreements on applied policies. This paper focuses on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), where regional integration of services markets has been linked to thriving regional supply chains. Drawing on surveys conducted in 2008 and 2012 of applied policies in the key services sectors of ASEAN countries, the paper assesses the impact of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) and the ambitious ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, which envisaged integrated services markets by 2015. The analysis finds that over this period, ASEAN did not integrate faster internally than vis-à-vis the rest of the world: policies applied to trade with other ASEAN countries were virtually the same as those applied to trade with rest of the world. Moreover, the recent commitments scheduled under AFAS did not produce significant liberalization and, in a few instances, services trade policy actually became more restrictive. These findings suggest that regional negotiations add the most value when they are focused on areas that are not being addressed multilaterally.

[» Download the paper here.](#)

2030 Agenda

AidWatch Report: Looking to the Future, don't Forget the Past – Aid Beyond 2015
CONCORD (2015)

2015 has been marked by important international decision-making moments, including the Financing for Development Conference in Addis, the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York and the lead-up to the climate negotiations in Paris. Given the importance of these events for the existing development framework, it is no surprise the EU declared 2015 the European Year for Development. The tenth CONCORD AidWatch Report takes stock of what the EU has achieved this year and, more importantly, it warns member states that the real work starts now. It is long past time for the EU to deliver on its commitments. This report looks to the future, but it does not forget the past.

[» Download the paper here.](#)

Urban Governance

Urbanization and Property Rights

Yongyang Chai, Harris Selod, Jevgenijs Steinbuks, World Bank (2015)

Since the industrial revolution, the economic development of Western Europe and North America was characterized by continuous urbanization accompanied by a gradual phasing-in of urban land property rights over time. Today, however, the evidence in many fast urbanizing low-income countries points towards a different trend of "urbanization without formalization", with potentially adverse effects on long-term economic growth. This paper aims to understand the causes and the consequences of this phenomenon, and whether informal city growth could be a transitory or a persistent feature of developing economies. A dynamic stochastic equilibrium model of a representative city is developed, which explicitly accounts for the joint dynamics of land property rights and urbanization.

[» Download the paper here.](#)

Urbanization and Climate Diplomacy – The Stake of Cities in Global Climate Governance

Adelphi (2015)

Cities are increasingly asserting themselves at the global level, as evidenced by their growing prominence in international negotiation processes, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is cities where the most ambitious climate action can be observed – but also the most harrowing failures. This indicates that cities, their needs and potential need to be better considered during climate negotiations. This paper examines the relevance of cities and city networks in the current international climate policy architecture, especially with respect to the evolution of intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) and climate finance as well as other developments in the run-up to COP21. Furthermore, the paper addresses the role that cities should play based on their potential to drive climate policies from the bottom up.

» [Download the paper here.](#)

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DECENTRALISATION &
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