Dear Reader,

the Habitat III Conference in Quito (17.-20.10.) is about to begin and the latest draft for the New Urban Agenda was published on July 28. From 27-29 September ADB and DeLoG will host a join learning event on “Localising Global Agendas” in Manila. For a follow up you can find out more about our last regional seminar in Burkina Faso on Financial Decentralization in West Africa. In profile we feature Barnabé Z. Dassigli, Chairperson of AU DLG Subcommittee and Minister of Decentralization and Local Governance in Benin.

We hope you enjoy the current issue.
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DeLoG Activities

UEMOA/DeLoG Seminar: Financial Decentralisation in West Africa

At the end of June, the regional seminar on “The Implementation of the Whitebook on Financial Decentralisation within UEMOA” took place in Burkina Faso. Over 80 participants from all UEMOA countries, among them directors of the Ministries of Finance and Decentralisation, Presidents of Local Government Associations, Mayors and representatives of national financing institutions as well as development partners discussed the way forward for financial decentralisation in Western Africa.

›› For more information, please click here.

In Profile – Barnabé Z. Dassigli, Chairperson of AU DLG Subcommittee

Barnabé Z. DASSIGLI is Minister of Decentralization and Local Governance in Benin. As Benin is chairing the African Union (AU) Decentralization and Local Governance (DLG) Subcommittee, he became, at the same time, the Chairperson of AU DLG Subcommittee. He plans to restore a permanent communication with the Ministers in charge of decentralization in the five regions of Africa. His actions will focus on the search for strategic partners whose expertise and financial contribution are indispensable for the realization of the four years action plan.

›› To read the interview, please click here.

Learn4Dev: ADB/DeLoG joint learning event on “Localising Global Agenda”

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG) are jointly organising a learning event in Manila from September 27-29. We will explore current approaches for localizing the SDGs and for ensuring the role of subnational governments in urban development and climate change activities in the course of this event. There will be a particular focus on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

›› For more information, please click here.
News from our Member Organisations

Urban GLASS (Global-Local Accountability Support System) initiative

UN-Habitat and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) are launching an initiative to support local government in preventing corruption in urban management by promoting transparent, accountable and participatory cities. The project is being developed under the Uraía Platform, by the Global Fund of for the Development of Cities (FMDV) at www.uraia.org. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of local governments to develop and implement mechanisms for transparency and anti-corruption in urban settings, fostering the necessary conditions for the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 11. The scope of work will include capacity building, development of tools, advocacy and the promotion of partnerships and networking. The project will take specific consideration to the enormous potential of technology and will foster the development and use of SMART technologies as a tool to include citizens in the cities’ affairs. The organisers are looking for partners and donors to contribute to the country activities. For more information visit www.urban-glass.org or contact maria.alejandra@unhabitat.org

UNCDF supports Somali local governments on revenue mobilization

UNCDF continues working with local governments on the implementation of the Local Revenue Mobilization Initiative (LRMI). On 1 August 2016 a revenue planning and forecasting workshop was convened in Hargeisa under the auspices of the Somaliland Ministry of Interior for municipal officials of Hargeisa and Borama. Speaking at the opening, the Director-General of the Ministry of Interior highly appreciated UNCDF’s support to Somaliland, including the establishment and continued operation of the Local Development Fund, development of the Fiscal Decentralization Strategy as well as the launch of LRMI. Read the article.

Considerations for the Follow-up and Review of the NUA

This paper argues that a strong follow-up and review processes are essential to maintain commitment and engagement over time for the NUA. By identifying implementation successes and challenges, follow-up and review facilitate policy learning and provide an evidence base for implementation activities. They can moreover strengthen the NUA’s inclusiveness and accountability. The paper outlines suggestions for the relationship between the follow-up and review of the NUA and the Agenda 2030. Read the paper.

Data: The Missing Link in Meeting the SDGs

ADB is working with governments in the region to improve the way they compile statistics. One of the projects promotes the use of computer-assisted personal interviewing or CAPI. This improves the accuracy of results and reduces the time and money spent on field data collection. ADB will initially support three countries: the Marshall Islands; Sri Lanka; and Viet Nam. It will help national statistical offices in these countries to use CAPI to improve the scope, quality, and timeliness of national survey results linked to the SDGs. Read the article.
Sweden’s Charlotte Petri Gornitzka appointed new DAC Chair

Sweden’s Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, Director General of the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida), was appointed as the new Chair of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee. Ms Petri Gornitzka replaces outgoing DAC Chair Erik Solheim, who recently became Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. She will start her new role on a part time basis from 11 July 2016 and take up full-time duties in autumn.

Info, Links, Downloads

New Urban Agenda: latest PrepCom III Draft

The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) will be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17-20 October 2016. The aim of the conference is to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urban development with a “New Urban Agenda”. The draft is the result of the negotiations at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Habitat III Conference (PrepCom3), held in Surabaya, Indonesia, 25–27 July 2016. More than 5000 government and civil society representatives from 160 countries met in Indonesia to further negotiate on how to shape urbanisation processes in the next two decades. Unfortunately, the negotiations did not meet the anticipated expectations in terms of finalizing the agenda’s text. The results from PrepCom3 are the basis for the next round of informal negotiations in New York on 7-9 September.

PrepCom III in Surabaya: Finding a joint position on the NUA.

The “Right to the City” and the New Urban Agenda.

Opportunities and Challenges for Financing Sustainable Cities.

The NUA and the SDGs: Synergies and Challenges Ahead.

An urban approach to ‘leaving no one behind’.

Why do we ignore the local processes that deliver global goals in urban areas?
WUC: The City we need - Towards a New Urban Paradigm

The World Urban Campaign (WUC) is an advocacy and partnership platform to raise awareness about positive urban change in order to achieve green, productive, safe, healthy, inclusive, and well planned cities. Its goal is to place the Urban Agenda at the highest level in development policies. It is driven by currently 136 partners and networks. This document was adopted unanimously by the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee on 16 March 2016.

›› Link to the document.

Developing countries face a catastrophic lack of urban planning capacity

How can the Global South implement the NUA with colonial-era curricula and little investment in training? Now, Zambia offers a new model. Urban planners of the future must act creatively and differently. The article argues that the most critical aspect of urban transformation will have to involve a change in the skills and attitudes of built-environment professionals in the cities of the developing world.

›› Link to the article.

Roadmap for localizing the SDGs: Implementation and monitoring at subnational level

From 10-20 July, local and regional governments attended the High Level Political Forum in New York to share their perspectives on the implementation of the SDGs with the international community and to launch the Roadmap for localizing the SDGs. The road map will include the guidelines for Awareness-raising, Advocacy, Implementation, Monitoring and it discusses “Where do we go from here?”.

›› Link to the roadmap.

›› Link to the report: Global Taskforce calls for the localization of the SDGs at the High Level Political Forum

UCLG Video SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

we'll need to build a new city for one million people a day

›› Link to the video.
Blog Article: Olympics remind us of the importance of local governance

The Olympics have been a self-imposed stress test for Brazil’s cities. The 1995 State of Brazil reforms sought to improve civil services through objectives, managed competition, and direct democracy, rather than absolute bureaucratic control. These reforms also privatized and outsourced state-owned industries and devolved publicly funded initiatives to the nonprofit sector. Brazil has pioneered participatory budgeting at the local level, and open budget progress.

>> Link to the blog article.

World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders

The United Cities and Local Governments Congress, is the highest governing body of the World Organization. It brings together over 3,000 representatives of towns, cities, metropolises and regions, civil society, the business world and academia from around the world to interact with their colleagues from across the globe. The Summit is also the occasion where all members are able to exercise their rights, influence the global development agenda and guide the work plan for the next three years. This year’s conference is titled “Local Voices for a Better World”.

>> Link to the congress information.

2016 CAPE Conference: where next for development effectiveness?

The conference will be held from 18 - 19 October 2016 in London to discuss the improvement of the development effectiveness process. The SDGs have raised global development ambitions; traditional donor-recipient distinctions have evolved into partnerships; new finance providers have emerged; and a growing share of development finance is now provided by actors such as the private sector who may have little understanding of development effectiveness principles. There is a need to build a new consensus on development effectiveness that’s fit for the SDG era.

>> Find more information about the conference here.

Sustainable Development Goals-Festival

Date: 14-16 November 2016
Place: World Conference Center Bonn (Germany)
>> Register here!

Join the first SDG Action Forum and launch of the Global Campaign Center of the UN SDG Action Campaign! The event will include formal high-level modules, SDG knowledge and innovation fair, partner recognition celebration, break-away sessions, solutions-oriented design labs, innovation sprints, and much more!
LOCS4Africa 2017: Water & Climate Congress

LOCS4Africa will host a congress on Water & Climate from 22 to 24 of March 2017. The conference takes place in South Africa and it will explore the critical links between climate change and urban water and sanitation in Africa’s cities. Water is THE critical challenge facing many of Africa’s local governments. As such, there has never been a more relevant time for a pan-African congress to move 'from dialogue to action,' providing on the ground solutions, unpacking emerging trends and unlocking financial mechanisms for improved climate resilient development at the local level.

›› Apply by the 16 September here.

8th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaption

The forum takes place in Bonn (Germany) from 4-6 May 2017. Resilient Cities is the global meeting point for exchange of best practices in urban resilience and adaptation to climate change. The Call for Contributions' themes will include: Financing resilience, Disaster risk management, Inclusive urban governance, Ecosystem-based adaptation and Managing climate-related health risks.

›› Link to the call for contributions which is open from October - December 2016.

Courses

The Hague Academy for local governance

›› Conflict, Rule of Law & Local Security

Date: 7-18 November 2016
Apply by: 7 October 2016
Place: The Hague, The Netherlands

The nexus between conflict, rule of law and security at the subnational level remains largely unexplored. The course offers lectures from academics and international experts in conflict analysis, governance, rule of law promotion, and local security. Participants share their expertise and knowledge and bridge the divide between theory and practice by exercises and practical cases. Visits will be made to amongst others the International Criminal Court (ICC) and The Dutch National Crisis Centre to learn how to prevent and maintain local security.

Those, who mention in their application form that they apply through the DeLoG newsletter, will get a 10% discount on the course fee.

The Hague Academy for local governance

›› Local Economic Development

Date: 28 November-9 December 2016
Apply by: 14 October 2016
Place: The Hague, The Netherlands

This practice oriented course focuses on strengthening the economic capacity of a local or regional community. Different approaches to accommodate the different needs of urban and rural contexts as well as local economic and social development in least-developed and post-conflict states will
be discussed. Furthermore, strategies and tools to support decent work and human rights and include vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as women and youth, in the local economy are presented. Those, who mention in their application form that they apply through the DeLoG newsletter, will get a 10% discount on the course fee.

Swiss Peace

**Theories of Change in Fragile Contexts Training**

**Date:** 1-3 February 2017  
**Apply by:** 30 November 2016  
**Place:** Switzerland, Basel

While peace building 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. 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.

### Studies

**Local Governance and Decentralisation**

**Sharing Responsibilities and Resources among Levels of Governments: Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals**  
Paule Smoke; UN (2016)

This paper discusses the implementation of the SDGs through local governance and decentralisation. It highlights the gap between theory and practise of decentralisation and intergovernmental reforms. Systems and institutional development varies among countries. The national and historic context has a major influence on the shape and structure of the subnational governments. This is why decentralisation is best based on a broad-based country consensus. The article provides a way for adapting the SDGs in local contexts.

**Download the paper here.**

**Handbook for a successful project**  
Abigaïl Faure, Mireille Van der Graaf; Platforma (2016)

This practical guide was conceived in the spirit of the mission for easier access to financing opportunities. It helps elected representatives and local civil servants to build solid projects and attractive applications. There are useful information on EU Member States’ funding agencies and multilateral organisations included.

**Download the handbook here in English.**  
**Download the handbook here in French.**
**Considering the state: perspectives on South Sudan’s subdivision and federalism debate**

Mareike Schomerus and Lovise Aalen; ODI (2016)

The report analyses the new changes in the South Sudan’s administrative structure. It recommends what might be the best structure for South Sudan. In 2015 the number of states was increased from 10 to 28. Decentralisation and Federalism are discussed in countries' context. Especially the relationship between the central and newly constructed local structure is discussed. This report is a practical example of decentralisation which applies theories of deconcentration and devolution in the context of South Sudan.

» Link to the report.

**Integrating Informal Institutions in Local Governance: Does it Matter?**

Shandana Khan Mohmand and Snezana Misic Mihajlović; IDS (2016)

In this paper the literature on 'informally institutionalised' relationships between states and citizens is added by examining the case of a particular type of informal institution. The Mixed method approach is presented to explore variation in the role and functions of Mjesna Zajednica (MZ) that operates across the former Yugoslavian countries. Institutional variation across two parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina are used to test the claim that there is a relationship between strong legal frameworks and the role of MZs in strengthening citizen participation, inclusive decision-making, and improved service delivery. There is evidence to suggest that bringing government closer to the people through the inclusion of local institutions in formal local government appears to matter for improved governance, especially in terms of citizen participation and service delivery.

» Download the working paper here.

**Migration**

Humanitarian responses by local actors: Lessons learned from managing the transit of migrants and refugees through Croatia

Maren Larsen, Elma Demir, Maja Horvat; IIED (2016)

The Croatian Government managed the transit of 650,000 migrants and refugees in late 2015 and early. This paper analyses the impact of the crises and derives that the decentralisation of resources and capacities in sectors relevant to managing shorter-term humanitarian emergencies or longer-term integration of new citizens is difficult within the current structure of local self-governance in Croatia. Therefore, enhancing the role of local authorities in such situations would likely need to be accompanied by institutional reforms or mechanisms ranging from shared services, to regrouping of functions, or long-discussed administrative and territorial re-organisation in Croatia.

» Link to the paper.
Urban Governance

The Urban Dimension of the SDGs: Implications for the NUA
Dr Philipp Misselwitz, María Rosa Muñoz, Jesús Salcedo Villanueva, Anna Marie Walter (2016)

The adoption of Agenda 2030 and the publication of the Zero Draft of the NUA has led to a lively discussion over which targets and indicators of the SDGs are of particular relevance to the NUA. A general trend has been to acknowledge that the urban dimension of the SDGs extends well beyond the dedicated goal (SDG 11) focused on cities and human settlements. This paper's intention is to sharpen the NUA-SDG link and contribute to shaping the NUA into a practical, implementation-oriented policy document that recognizes and empowers urban actors in their efforts to achieve the Agenda 2030.

Transforming a ‘New Urban Agenda’ into a just urban agenda
Adriana Allen, Alexandre Apsan Frediani, Anna Walnycki: IEED (2016)

The revised Zero Draft lacks both an overarching vision that recognises the vital links between the three commitments and a consistent approach to implementation. The current contradictions threaten to make the commitments ineffective individual workstreams. To reach its transformative ambition, the paper argues that the final NUA draft must make these connections, and suggest four specific ways in which it could achieve greater coherence and inclusivity.

Gender

Priority gender issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine
Pozarny, P., & Rohwerder, B. (2016)

This paper discusses the gender issues in Eastern Europe. It argues that women's political participation is limited and therefore it analyses the progress in each country for improving the role of women. It comes to the conclusion that gender stereotyping and discrimination against women remain widespread. Also the participation in governance is still low, main reasons for this include lack of financing, traditional societal attitudes, little experience in public life roles and low interest. There are problems with implementation of the law and there is a lack of political will to advance gender equality.

Download the report here.
**Fragile States**

This guide gives an overview of the main literature in the field of fragile states. It recommends articles and books e.g. which regard state-society relations and citizenship in situations of conflict and fragility. It bundles concepts of civic trust, citizenship and socio-political cohesion.

›› Download the guide here.

**Climate Change**

Reflecting on the Paris outcome, this article discusses the role of non-State and subnational actors – especially on the road to the Paris climate change conference. It argues that the intergovernmental and transnational spheres of global climate governance could mutually reinforce each other by continuing mobilization efforts to engage non-State actors and by harnessing greater ambition, both from State and non-State actors.

›› Download the Article here.

**The Paris Climate Package: A Basic Guide for Local and Subnational Governments**

This guide is for local and subnational governments summarizes the process of which led to the recognition and engagement of local and subnational governments in the Paris Climate Package. It argues that the Paris Agreement will unlock resources that can help cities and regions meet and exceed their climate goals. This results into a locally-driven implementation process, local leaders can help to increase capital flows into cities, towns and regions by demonstrating the collective impact of local climate action through consistent and transparent reporting.

›› Download the Guide here.
Measuring, Reporting, Verification (MRV) of Urban Low Emission Development
ICLEI (2016)

This handbook aims to guide the local government’s approach to effectively address climate change, with a strong focus on mitigation. Yet, it can also be used for integrated sustainable development, stimulating the local green economy, and many other topics, using climate action as an entry point.

Download the handbook here.

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