



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos

WORKING GROUP « PERIPHERAL CITIES »

UCLG World Council - Marrakech – 29 November – 1st December 2006

Report of the meeting of the Working Group on « Peripheral cities » - 1st December 2006

The meeting of the Working Group « Peripheral cities » took place at the end of the UCLG World Council : this has not helped the participation of a number of local authorities, because of travel and agenda constraints (Saint Denis, Badalone, Conseil Général de Seine Saint Denis...).

Mr Pereau Bezouille, deputy mayor of Nanterre, who chaired the meeting, apologised several partners who couldn't attend it, mainly for financial reasons.

Mr Pereau Bezouille reminded the report presented the day before at the 'closed' session of the World Council.

The suburban cities, under the impulsion of their network, engaged themselves during the Beijing World Council, in June 2005, to organise the First World Forum of the Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP) on the theme « Another glance to the metropolises world ».

Prepared in a collective way during more than a year, it successfully took place in march 2006 in Nanterre - France (see the sheet on history of the FALP). The report is now available on internet (www.falp.nanterre.net) and, on request, on CD Rom.

During the FALP Forum and the following meetings the will to continue a common work within the network was reaffirmed, giving impulsion to the initiatives of the UCLG Working Group.

The proposals raised during the Marrakech meeting come from these debates :

- 1) To co-elaborate a document, based on the FALP debates and the following meetings, on the challenge of the "Interdependent metropolises"; this document will be presented to the municipal movement during the UCLG congress in October 2007 in South Korea.
- 2) To set up several seminars, with civil society associations, on the challenge in the world of the " Interdependent metropolises", in the framework of the next World Social Forum in Nairobi, and in the context of the 7th Local Authorities Forum for Social Inclusion.
- 3) To enquire local authorities, through their contributions or through a questionnaire, about the "metropolitan governance", in coordination with Métropolis, if possible.

- 4) To widen the Working Group's bureau to peripheral cities of the African continent, following the workshop on the FALP issues held during the AFRICITES summit.

The Working Group made it possible to continue the debate on these proposals.

The suggested document can mark the progress achieved through the initiatives taken by local authorities of periphery on « the evolution of the metropolises, with a will to carry the debate on the significance and on future perspectives, in order to contribute to interdependent metropolises » (Aubagne - France).

It will allow to collect « our contributions» (Guarulhos). Peripheral local authorities are a reality in many metropolises. We can find them in Rio de Janeiro (6 million inhabitants) or in Beirut, where suburbs raise questions on daily life, like transport issues. Metropolises need their experiences, also for their development.

Peripheral cities need to be recognized (Ghobeyrie - southern periphery of Beirut). They must give their "point of view" on the metropolitan governance (Guarulhos), which is at the centre of current debates in many countries. In this context, the Jeju Congress (Northern Chorea) must give the opportunity to hear their voices in a significant way.

We can thus congratulate ourselves (and see in this the relevance of our work), because one of the topics of the suggested debates in Jeju is « the dilemmas of metropolises: how to reconcile competitiveness and solidarity, performances and quality of life, centre and periphery », but the contributions of peripheral cities can be useful on many questions.

According to the objectives of the program «Cities alliance», especially within the framework of the MDG (Millennium Development Goals), there are a space and a need for working with cities of peripheries, in order to fight poverty and to define strategies for urban development. UCLG can establish the link.

How to set up the proposals

- Dissemination of a draft document at the beginning of 2007 (after the World Social Forum seminars in Nairobi), in order to achieve it at the end of June 2007. In the framework of this debate, launching of the consultation on " metropolitan governance", in collaboration, if possible, with Métropolis.
- Organization of a meeting of the network "FALP for interdependent metropolises" in Western Africa region, in order to integrate one or two local authorities into the bureau of the Working Group "Peripheral Cities" (spring 2007).
- Elaboration of a proposals for the presence of peripheral local authorities at the UCLG Congress in Jeju.