

We are pleased to present the latest news on City Development Strategies:

1. *Cities Alliance's Meeting at the World Congress*
2. *CityFuture in Jeju*
3. *Set up of the Urban Planning Commission*



Our UCLG World Congress in Jeju saw nearly 2,000 participants discussing local government issues under the headline “CHANGING CITIES ARE DRIVING OUR WORLD”. There were two dedicated Meetings on CDS. The CDS meeting coordinated by Cities Alliance presented a more general view on CDS and showcased successful experiences from Asia. The CityFuture meeting provided an overview of the outcomes of CityFuture and the future UCLG agenda on City Development Strategies.

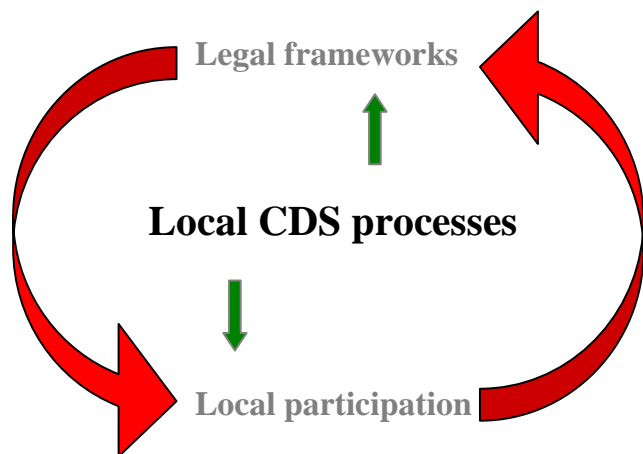
1. Meeting on CDS Strategic responses in fast growing cities

The key note delivered by the Jean Pierre Mbassi, the secretary general of UCLGA, reminded the participants about the local premises of a CDS process: “*If you fail to plan you plan to fail*”.

Strategic planning needs to promote economic growth, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance. It is urgent that international development community fully recognizes the strategic role of cities for economic growth and poverty alleviation.

To achieve the MDGs, local governments need to engage and commit to processes beyond the terms of elected representatives, processes that can result from CDSs. In many countries, there is also an opportunity to create legal instruments for strategic urban planning.

For example, Vietnam is a centrally planned country that places particular emphasis on technical concepts. The CDS is a first steps to commit administrative staff through training, to gradually engage all stakeholders in decision-making processes. CDS assistance in the Philippines is very participatory and has become a widely used instrument. The Philippines has institutionalized CDS on all levels by “up scaling”: as an official instrument for local planning; and “down-scaling”: by using the CDS methods for community based decisions-making CDS have proven themselves strategically responsive to political windows of opportunity.



2. Meeting on CityFuture

Participants of City Future, our cooperation program between UCLG and Cities Alliance, got together and met with members of the Cities Alliance, namely the GTZ, UNDP and USAID.

The objective of the executive meeting was to review the outcomes in the two regions of City Future, Africa and Latin America, and to decide on a way forwards, including the nearby establishment of a urban planning commission within UCLG.

The cities have been addressing possible partners and references in their countries, a process we call “**Matchmaking**”. More and more cities coming into contact with each other, with local government associations and with Cities Alliance members to share their CDS experiences.

- In Mozambique, the local government association (ANNAM) has set up a CDS task force and the City of Nampula has completed a first draft proposal.
- UCLG of Africa is already cooperating with members of the CA and proposes to disseminate and elaborate a “State of the Cities Report” throughout the region, which is based on work undertaken by of the South African City Network.
- In Malawi, the City of Lilongwe is approaching Johannesburg for CDS process mentorship. They have received first feedback from Cities Alliance.
- The Colombian cities of Pasto and Medellín have nearly completed their CDS proposal, and jointly approached the GTZ for a possible links with the national peace program.
- Ciudad Sur (Chile) has nearly finished a CDS proposal. The city is partnering with the Ministry of Housing (a member of the Cities Alliance). The Ministry’s task force of 10 municipalities is interested in the involvement of Rosario.
- Villa El Salvador (Perú) expressed the outline proposal and possible linkages with Lima’s CDS. The World Bank has signaled support and Villa El Salvador is currently contacting Medellín for possible assistance and mentorship.
- The Mexican local government association (FENAM) is working with the City of Durango for designing national CDS policy recommendations based on local experiences. USAID is supporting the activities.
- The local government association of Brazil (CNM) wants to offer a CityFuture-style platform at the national level, to mostly assist small and medium sized municipalities.
- The City of Porto Alegre is offering its experiences on social inclusion and development to the CDS initiative.

3. UCLG’s Strategic Urban Planning Commission

The City of Rosario created a commission on urban strategic planning within UCLG, which was approved and validated during the World Congress. This is a step towards strengthening the urban planning worldwide. Building on Rosario’s

successful CDS experiences, both on their own process and within the CityFuture network, the city now leads the newly created global network. The purpose is to share experiences, support city-to-city learning, promote good practices and deepen South-South cooperation.

- The proposed immediate activities for the commission
- Promote the commission to involve more members
 - Design and Agree on a work plan
 - Evaluate strategic planning principles in coordination with other initiatives, such as Cities Alliance, SACN, CLP, CIDEU, URBAL
 - Set up a permanent Technical Secretariat

Members of the new commission are: Tripoli; the South African Local Government Association; Lilongwe; Villa el Salvador; Ciudad Sur; the Brazilian Local Government Association; Porto Alegre; the Local Government Association of Mozambique; Mexican Local Government Association; Durango, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa; Maputo; Matola, Jakarta; and the Local Government Association of Senegal.

Related News

- The CityFuture Network is expanding, for example cities like Mexico-City, Ecatepec and Marrakech expressed interest to join the program and prepare proposals based on the experiences of our members.
- All participants of the CityFuture program, as well as all other interested cities are invited to join the [Urban Strategic Planning Commission](#).
- Cities Alliance made an “open-door” offer to requests from CityFuture participants. *Contact: p.person@citiesalliance.org*
- **Deadline:** Cities are urged to prepare their proposal drafts before January, in order to facilitate technical assistance for the preparatory process.
- The [CDS website](#) has been updated; check out the newest documentations of our activities.



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