

## COMMITTEE ON DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

### WORKING PLAN 2013-2016

*The Commission aims to strengthen decentralization and local self-government in order to improve local governance in all regions of the world and, thus, to achieve more efficient local governments and a better service provision to citizens. Its work contributes to the global Organisation strategy in this area.*

#### 0. Introduction

The 2013-2016 working plan of the UCLG Committee on Decentralization and Local Self-Government is the continuation of the work that it has been developing during the mandate of 2010-2013. This is structured following UCLG strategic priorities: 1) Leadership and Governance, 2) Representation, 3) Intelligence, 4) Cooperation and 5) Organization.

#### 1. Leadership and Governance

In order to contribute to the definition of a common strategy for decentralization and local governance, the Committee proposed a series of activities to increase political participation and shared leadership for the definition of a future joint agenda:

- Supporting the World Secretariat in the preparation and dissemination of the **Third Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy (GOLD Report)**, this time focused on the governance of local basic services, and whose presentation will take place during the Fourth UCLG World Congress in October 2013.
- **Supporting the World Secretariat in the preparation of the Fourth GOLD Report.**
- Boosting the UCLG **Global Observatory on Decentralisation and Local Democracy** as a tool of knowledge in the analysis of advance and recession of the decentralization process worldwide.
- **Strengthening the communication strategy** as a key element of the Committee action, in order to promote the principles of decentralization and local self-government worldwide. This includes the dissemination of those activities carried out by the Committee itself, as well as from the rest of its members and partners. The Committee is focused on the development and improvement of the following communication tools:
  - ✓ The Committee's **website** is a breaking news platform on decentralization and local governance issues of interest to local governments. The aim is to achieve an updated, dynamic website which encourages interaction between members of the Committee and the World Secretariat.
  - ✓ Periodic sending of **circulars** to members and partners of the Committee with information regarding the mission and activities of the same.
  - ✓ Development of a **monthly newsletter** including a first section on news referring to decentralization in the world, a second section on the activities

of the Committee and an agenda section, informing on scheduled activities and events.

## 2. Representation

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The work done by the Committee is a means to promote decentralization processes internationally and to support local and regional self-government. With this slogan and with the intention to increase the influence of local and regional governments in the formulation of policies, the Committee participates in initiatives and cooperates with partners of interest:

- **Collaboration with multilateral organizations** in order to ensure representation of local governments in these organisms (e.g. Participation in UN Habitat-led initiatives).
- **Participation in specialized meetings** in order to promote the principles of decentralization from a global perspective (e.g. Latin-American Forum of Local Governments).
- **Preparation of analytical documents** to gain political influence in the decision-making process of international bodies, and to protect and promote local interests globally (e.g. Tracking of the Committee of the Regions).

## 3. Intelligence

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In order to strengthen decentralization, local and regional governments require the provision of analysis tools, specific information and training, all tailored to the current situation. This allows them to define strategies, share knowledge and improve their position. To ensure this, the Committee will continue promoting the following activities:

- **Decentralisation and Local Governance Online Course**, created to meet the training demands of different sections, members and governments. It provides technical and practical knowledge, enhancing its participants' capacity-building and creating a common space for debate.
- Edition of **Magazine D+ on Decentralization and Local Self-Government**, delivered biannually in four languages, and including reflection papers, news and interviews. This publication is made thanks to the contribution of local elected members and experts in this field.
- Promotion of the **Database of best practices on decentralisation and local governance**, accessible through the website of the Committee, which aims to facilitate and disseminate the exchange of experiences.

## 4. Cooperation

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Decentralized cooperation has proven to be an effective tool for the exchange, promotion and progress of local governance. During this period, the Committee has worked in this field, gaining experience - especially with regards to the regions of Latin America and the Mediterranean, and taking part of international cooperation networks. Therefore, the

Commission favours decentralized cooperation and cooperates with international projects through:

- **Collaboration with local and regional governments' networks**, such as Arco Latino (space for cooperation between provinces and second-level territorial administrations in Spain, France, Italy and Portugal).
- **Support for decentralized cooperation and local governance projects**, such as the Central American and Caribbean Conference for State Decentralization and Local Development ("Conferencia Centroamericana y del Caribe por la Descentralización del Estado y Desarrollo Local" - CONFEDLCCA) or the Local Med-Morocco Platform (a network of Catalan and Moroccan municipalities that promotes learning, systematization and exchange of experiences between them, in the field of local public policies).
- **Promotion of training and learning initiatives amongst local governments**, like GOBERNA-CIUDAD, which promotes dialogue, and the exchange of knowledge and best practices between local governments.

## 5. Organization

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In order to strengthen the role of the World Organisation and contribute to the development of a joint strategy that favours local and regional governance in the world, the Committee carries out activities in various fields:

- **Stimulation of the Committee members**, in order to facilitate their collaboration and involvement in the activities proposed by the Committee, and to create a joint working plan that meets their goals and needs.
- **Participation in the UCLG governing bodies** as a way to support and strengthen the structure of the organization and improve the quality of their work, as well as in the annual meetings of committees and working groups coordinated by the World Secretariat.
- **Promotion of and coordination with UCLG regional sections and committees** in order to create common workspaces, adding efforts and reducing duplication. In this sense, the Committee has notably collaborated with the Mediterranean Interregional Committee, the Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy Committee and the Local Finance and Development Committee.