



## **POLICY DEBATE ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BY LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS**

**THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2022, 16:15-17:00 (CET)**

### **Background**

Last year, the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) finalised its [research on the current state of development cooperation of and by local governments and their associations](#). Based on the work done by IDS, and the contributions of many UCLG and CIB members to it, the Capacity and Institution Building working group now plans to develop a concise UCLG-CIB policy paper on development cooperation & local government, which will be presented to the UCLG Executive Bureau in June 2022. This policy paper should serve as an update of the UCLG-CIB policy paper on this topic from 2013 ([EN](#), [FR](#) and [ES](#) version).

The new policy paper will build the case for a **continued strong role of local and regional governments in development cooperation**, and will emphasize that, globally, local governments are key actors that drive development and support decentralization processes. As the order of government responsible for ensuring equitable delivery of essential services, including in many cases social services around health, welfare and housing, local governments occupy an important niche in a nation's development; however, support is needed from national governments and the international community to further strengthen local governments in fulfilling their mandates. The paper will also include the major role played by regional governments, for example in relation to sustainable territorial development and partnership between the different levels or orders of government.

Moreover, the policy paper will reflect on the current (international policy) context in which development cooperation between local and regional governments takes place and present **updated key messages and recommendations, to support advocacy with local governments, national governments and the international community**. When describing the developments in the (policy) context, the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath will also be taken into account.

### **Objective of the session**

The CIB Working Group is collaborating closely with senior expert Sebastien Hamel on the drafting of the policy paper. Based on the IDS research and contributions from the UCLG/CIB network, draft calls for action have been formulated, which we would like to 'test' with the members of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. Do the calls for action reflect the main challenges and opportunities in the field of local

government development cooperation? Or do participants of the session feel like other elements need to be added. We foresee a dynamic discussion on the development context, evolution of Decentralised Cooperation and draft calls for action among the membership.

## Draft agenda

Facilitation: Jessie Post, coordinator of the CIB working group secretariat

- 16:00-16:05 **Opening remarks– connecting this policy work to UCLG’s broader policy context and the UCLG world congress** by Jan van Zanen, co-president of UCLG & President of VNG
- 16:05-16:15 **Brief presentation of most important elements of the draft policy paper including calls for action** by Sebastien Hamel, senior expert
- 16:15-16:40 **Open discussion with members of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, on the presented content and calls for action**
- 16:40-16:45 **Wrap-up and next steps** by Jessie Post, coordinator of the CIB working group

