



Preparation of Draft International Guidelines for Access to Basic Services for All

Expert Group Meeting

20 November 2007, Geneva

Draft minutes of the meeting

Participants:

- Jianping Zhang - Institute for International Economic Research, National Development and Reform Commission, Beijing, China
- Mary Jane Ortega - Former Mayor, City of San Fernando, Phillipines
- Dr. P.K. Mohanty - Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, India
- Alexander Kovacevic - Independent Expert, Serbia
- Cedric Lebris – IGD, France
- Oscar E Diaz - Por el Pais que Queremos Foundation, Colombia
- Julie Toubert - Columbia University, USA
- Dominique Heron - Veolia Environment
- Nicolas Dutreix – Veolia Eau
- Cedric Baecher - Veolia Eau
- Christophe Nuttall – UNDP
- Leslie Ouarzazi - UNDP
- Sumila Gulyani - World Bank
- Mito Tsikamoto - ILO
- Nathalie Mivelaz - OHCHR
- Thomas Meekel - UCLG
- Marie Vannouque-Digne - UCLG
- Ludovic Durel -UCLG

Secretariat

- Daniel Biau - UN-HABITAT (Moderator)
- Jean-Yves Barcelo - UN-HABITAT
- Mariko Sato - UN-HABITAT
- Manuel Vega-Cuberos - UN-HABITAT
- Nicolas Frizon de Lamotte - UNITAR
- Yves Berthelot - UNITAR
- Philippe Athanassiou - UNITAR
- Devina Ahluwalia – UNITAR

After an introduction by the Moderator on the Expert Group Meeting objectives, the expected outcomes of the meeting and the background on the initiative, the agenda of the meeting was adopted as follows:

- 10.00 Opening
- 10.15 Presentation of the participants
- 10.30 Background and preparation process
- 11.15 Presentation of the initial draft guidelines
- 11.30 Remarks by the representatives of international organisations and other participants - Discussion
- 14.15 Continuation of discussions section by section
- 17.00 Conclusion and next steps

Background and preparation process

The Secretariat briefed the participants on the *Draft Guidelines for Access to Basic Services for All*, by explaining the background of the initiative and its practical use. The language and scope of the document was described stressing that it should be in line with the *Guidelines on Decentralisation and the Strengthening of Local Authorities*.

The drafting process of the Guidelines includes the following steps:

In line with UN-HABITAT Resolution 21/4 requesting to develop draft guidelines based on further consultations with other United Nations bodies and concerned stakeholders, an inter-partner Expert Group is established to guide the preparation of the draft guidelines.

Regular consultations will be conducted through email. Two groups of meetings will be organized by the Secretariat.

1. The first expert group meeting takes place at the beginning of the process to discuss the initial draft guidelines. It is divided in two sub-groups to facilitate the dialogue:

- The first sub-group meets in Geneva in November 2007 with representatives of international organisations and experts from Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Countries with Economy in Transition and Developed Countries.
- The second sub-group meets in Nairobi in February 2008 with a focus on Africa and Least Developed Countries.

Comments and inputs of the two meetings will be consolidated in view of the preparation of the second draft of the guidelines by April 2008.

2. The second meeting is scheduled to take place in Nanjing, China, in October 2008, during the 4th World Urban Forum, to discuss the second draft of the guidelines. The third draft will be presented to the Committee of the Permanent Representatives to UN-HABITAT in November 2008 for inter-governmental discussion and submission to the Governing Council for Adoption in April 2009.

In the general debate, participants discussed the following points:

- A change in the order of the structuring principles was suggested to place decentralization and role of local authorities in 2nd position.
- Cross-cutting issues should all be addressed in the introductory part.
- In the various sections, no reference should be made to specific beneficiaries (i.e. list of vulnerable groups). This should be addressed in the introduction with a reference to non-

discriminatory policies and women's role in the process of planning, delivering and monitoring basic services.

- Sector specificities should be moved to an annex of the guidelines.
- The structure of each section should be the same, to be arranged along the role and responsibilities of each group of actors, namely central authorities, local authorities, service providers and civil society organisations.
- As a component of the notion of "access", the words "available" and "affordable" should be completed with a reference to "quality" and "safety".
- The guidelines are relevant to both urban and rural environments, in fact to any milieu and group of population lacking access to basic services.
- The risk of cartels was mentioned if not addressed by public policies.
- The importance of access to information was stressed.
- The differentiated role of participation and involvement of beneficiaries in planning and building large infrastructure compared to basic services at neighbourhood level.
- To take into account the difference in the status and size of cities, accordingly with its human, technological and financial capacities.

The Secretariat pointed out that several output indicators are already available, stressing the importance of developing a few additional process indicators, keeping in mind that they have to be simple and easy to understand by the media and public. The issue will be further discussed in Nanjing in October 2008.

Continuation of discussions section by section

Several specific suggestions and opinions were brought by participants through a detailed section by section discussion. The secretariat has taken note of all proposal and participants were requested to send their written comments and inputs.

Representatives of institutions pledged to provide their written comments after consultation within their organizations one month after the meeting. The secretariat will consolidate all outcomes of both Geneva and Nairobi meetings for the preparation of the second Draft of the Guidelines on Access to Basic Services for All which will be available in April 2008

The meeting was concluded at 17.10.