PARALLEL SESSION

Metropolitan Governance arrangements - policy recommendations for improved equity, accountability and participation?

Session organized by UN-Habitat and German Development Cooperation BMZ / GIZ

UN⊛HABITAT   giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Date: 6 October 2014
Time: 14:30-16:30
Venue: *TBD*

PROGRAM

Opening: Facilitator, (***facilitator name)***

Speakers:

- Speaker 1 – UN-Habitat / GIZ (joint presentation) – Metropolitan governance challenges from a development partners' perspective (typology, characteristics and inter-municipal cooperation as a flexible tool)
- Speaker 2 – 1 Mayor/ South – A leader's vision, experience from (city TBD)
- Speaker 3 – 1 Mayor/ North – Challenges of metropolitan governance in (city TBD)
- Speaker 4 – 1 Academic (consultant of the study): Policy recommendations for improved metropolitan governance

Summary of key issues by facilitator

Panel discussion and Questions from audience: Panelists

SUMMARY

Worldwide, metropolitan areas are rapidly becoming the predominant form of human settlement. By 2025, cities of one million and more inhabitants, accounting for about 40 % of the world urban population in 2011, are expected to account for 47 % of the world urban population by 2025. The future urban population will be increasingly concentrated in large cities of one million or more inhabitants and the megacities of at least 10 million inhabitants will experience the largest percentage increase.

As the size of cities continues to grow and their economic, political and cultural influence is increasingly recognized, governance systems are challenged to keep pace. The size of cities and their growth, their socio-economic and spatial fractures, their economic characteristics and institutional dimensions have consequences for the transparency, efficiency, accountability, and participatory dimensions of governance. Governance is the software metropolitan structures cannot work properly without; it is the medium through which the transformative force of urbanization is nurtured and unleashed in the metropolitan regions (equity, economic development, infrastructure planning, environmental protection,

financial sustainability, safety, etc.). Systems of governance integrate a composite set of factors, which embody the operational principles, organizational and financing structures as well as institutional and societal relationships that underpin the process of urbanization. Hence, metropolitan governments are looking for governance arrangements that are 'fit for their purposes'. Metropolitan governance refers to the internal organisational structure and decision making processes of a metropolitan region and refers also to the connectivity between different cities and metropolitan regional in a national and international (city system) context. Metropolitan regions contribute to national development and national targets.

UN-Habitat and GIZ are engaging in a joint exercise to improve the understanding of metropolitan governance in developing countries - especially in fast growing and emerging metropolises in low income countries – with a view to developing a relevant conceptual approach, assessment methodologies, applicable tools and policy recommendations. The objectives of the session are:

1. Identification of the challenges for metropolitan governance in developing metropolises, with special attention to equity, accountability and participation;
2. Needs assessment and joint reflection with the participants to support the development of policy recommendations in the field of metropolitan governance;
3. Exchange on existing practices, successful experiences and innovations.

The session is designed to be exploratory in nature and will query:
- How do the metropolitan governance arrangements contribute – or not – to the "good" urban governance principles?
- Which practical recommendations could be made to improve the main dimensions of good urban governance at a metropolitan scale? Which framing governance settings are conducive for well governed metropolitan regions?
- Which actors or stakeholders have been considered in metropolitan decision making and governance processes?
- How can development partners support and facilitate the implementation of practical metropolitan governance arrangements?
- How to deliver equitable and affordable services for a growing and diverse population expanding out of administrative boundaries? *(efficiency and accountability as a service-provider)*
- How to mitigate social and spatial deprivation and the resulting fragmentation? *(territorial (in)equality in the distribution of resources)*
- How to give rise to local economic development and innovation, inter-regional competitiveness and employment opportunities without damaging environmental resources? *(economic competitiveness and sustainability)*
- How to aim for overall sustainable development of metropolitan regions within the interdependencies of the rural-urban continuum?

The session will start with a general overview of the metropolitan governance challenges, UN-Habitat and GIZ setting the framework and the main questions they are trying to answer. Two experiences from Europe and a developing country (preferably a metropolis from a low income country) will be presented, highlighting the challenges that leaders and administration are confronted with and how they responded respectively. This is the opportunity to compare challenges between North and South but also to listen to the point of view of Mayors on their needs and their initiatives to tailor metropolitan governance arrangements. To conclude the session, a presentation of the intermediary results of a joint UN-Habitat/GIZ research on metropolitan governance will be proposed. It is expected that the first findings of the research will be checked against metropolitan practitioners' concerns and that some policy

recommendations and further guiding questions and the need for applicable tools will emerge out of the session.