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**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**  
towards the  
**FOURTH GLOBAL FORUM  
ON REINVENTING GOVERNMENT**

Seminar:  
**STRENGTHENING CENTRAL – REGIONAL RELATIONSHIP AND  
PROCESSES**

**Marrakech, Morocco 10 – 13 December 2002**

## ***Strengthening Central-Regional relationships and processes***

*As part of the democratization process, decentralization has been promoted to varying degrees and with varying outcomes in different countries. Conditions for its success include capable national governments to prompt, initiate, monitor, and guide the process of political and financial decentralization, as well as the creation of an adequate financial resource base to local governments to function properly. The success of decentralization reforms also depends on consistent and coherent national policies, good legislative and regulatory frameworks for decentralization, and effective review mechanisms to solve disputes between central and local government.*

*After a broad introduction that will design the framework and will enable to highlight the general theme, the panel will break down into three following thematic sessions:*

*The first, will expand and deepen the acquaintance of the Italian experience as a case study: after thirty years of reinforcement of the system of local governments, Italy represents now an interesting testing exercise concerning additional and stronger delegation of capacities and power. Legal and financial aspects will be taken into consideration, experiences of different sectors will also be presented to illustrate the concrete methodologies through which this process is going to be accomplished in Italy.*

*A second session will compare different national models: the panel will enable to understand the outline of diversified experiences developed in contexts signed by deep specificity of the economic systems, juridical systems, and organizational cultures.*

*Particular emphasis will be given to both the integration mechanisms within government at different levels (vertical relations) and to cooperation and coordination at horizontal levels.*

*Finally, a third session will permit the participants to grasp a glance on what takes place in large regional areas into which strong processes of economic and institutional integration are taking place, and into which decentralized actions and strengthening of institutional building capacity of supranational institutions, cohabit and support each other.*

*The panel will end through the comparison between the emerged needs and still under testing of a real “governance” in the European Union, the meaningful experience of Mercosur in Latin America and the ongoing accelerated processes of transformation of Eastern European countries in view of their interest to participate to the European Union.*

*All the sessions, will discuss and compare de/concentration and devolution policies and legislation, as well as the relative time, costs, and effectiveness of decentralization. The various steps of decentralization processes will be analysed from a procedural and technical point of view. Thus, the participants will discuss, through practical cases, how authority and competencies are transferred from the central government to local governments, and will focus on the vertical relationship between the various levels of government, i.e. on coordination mechanisms between local and national levels of government. National experiences will be discussed to illustrate the existing vast array and modalities in formulating and implementing decentralization processes.*