

**New Aide Memoire
A Capacity Development Workshop on
Decentralised Governance and Poverty Reduction**

**Organised by UNDP/BDP/IDG as part of the
Global Forum on Re-inventing Government
10 – 11 December 2002
Marrakech, Morocco**

Background

The institutions of democratic governance are a key means to achieve the goals of sustainable human development. Decentralisation and local governance are increasingly recognized as basic components of democratic governance as providing the enabling environment in which decision-making and service delivery can be brought closer to local people, especially the poor.

Decentralised governance provides the legal, administrative and fiscal frameworks for the empowerment of people and their institutions at sub-national levels, from the regional or provincial, to the district, to cities, towns and villages. Capacity development of various levels of government, civil society and the private sector, and their partnerships, becomes the key factor for successful decentralization. However, for decentralization and local governance to foster the goals of people-centred, sustainable development, policies and programmes must be designed and implemented in such a way as to ensure the functional linkages between participatory institutional mechanisms and processes and the empowerment of the poor, of the female population and other disadvantaged groups.

Programmes of international donors, including UNDP, have attempted to make these linkages explicit and concrete. These include efforts at the country, regional and global levels. UNDP has increased its financial allocations to decentralization and local governance six-fold in the past decade. Today, this is a major area of support in almost 90 countries in every region. UNDP has recently launched a global trust fund service line and a global knowledge network (community of practice) in this area.

Objectives

In this workshop the major experiences and lessons of UNDP will be shared with the group in order to spark a lively dialogue involving the sharing of insights from each participant. In this way, the workshop will comprise a microcosm of a global knowledge network on decentralization. Therefore, the objectives of the workshop will include:

1. To share major lessons and tools through a panel of how decentralization, local governance and urban development have improved the lives of the poor
2. To conduct an interactive dialogue through small group discussion
3. To pull together insights in a workshop plenary and prepare a presentation for the plenary of the whole conference

Programme

The workshop will take place simultaneously with ten other workshops on themes related to capacity development. On the first day, these workshops will be preceded by an opening ceremony and a plenary session. On the second day, a plenary session will be held after the conclusion of the parallel workshops.

10 December

9:00 am	<i>Opening Ceremony</i>
10:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:30	<i>Plenary Session</i>
1:00 pm	<i>Lunch Break</i>
2:30 pm	<p>Opening: Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UNDP Assistant Secretary General, Regional Bureau for Africa</p> <p>Introduction of participants</p> <p>Workshop context</p> <p>Open discussion of the participants - Addressing the Challenges of Poverty Reduction at the National and Local Levels: Implications for, and the Role of, Decentralisation, Local Governance and Urban Development</p>
3:30	<p>Presentations of Lessons and Tools and Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralisation, Participation and Poverty Reduction from 12 Country Studies: - Robertson Work, Decentralisation Advisor, UNDP New York • Local Governance, Local-Local Dialogue and Poverty Reduction in 12 Pilot Countries - Pratibha Mehta, Local Governance Advisor, UNDP New York
4:00	Coffee Break
4:15	Open Discussion of the Presentations

6:00 Closing of first session

11 December

9:30 am Presentations of Lessons and Tools and Open Discussion

- Urban Management, City Consultations and Poverty Reduction in 120 Cities:
- Jonas Rabinovitch, Urban Development Advisor, UNDP New York
- Urban Environmental Improvement, Public-Private Partnerships and Poverty Reduction in 15 Cities:
- Maleye Diop, Acting Manager, PPPUE, UNDP Pretoria

10:10 Open discussion of the presentations

11:45 Preparation of report for Global Forum Plenary

12:30 pm Closing of final session
and Lunch Break

2:00 *Plenary Session*

Participants

The workshop will have participants from a cross section of the conference including senior national government officials, parliamentarians, local government officials, civil society organization representatives, local community leaders, business leaders and representatives of bilateral and multilateral institutions.

Logistics

The workshop room will be announced. The workshop will begin at 2:30 pm on 10 December and conclude at 12:30pm on 11 December.

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