

## FOCUS SESSION 8:

### LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### A partnership approach for promoting inclusive territorial economic growth and sustainable development

(organised by ORU FOGAR in cooperation with UNDP)

15 April 8.00 am - 9.15 am Room 8

#### Speakers/Panelists: name title organization/country

- Carles Llorens Vila, Secretary General ORU/FOGAR, former General Director of Cooperation of the Government of Catalonia, Spain
- Hubert Julien-Laferriere, Vice president of Grand Lyon and Co-president of UCLG's committee on Decentralised Cooperation and City Diplomacy, France
- Juan Carlos Gossaín, President of OLAGI, Governor of Bolívar, Colombia
- Magdy Magdy Martínez-Solimán, UNDP, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Director a.i. of the Bureau for Development Policy
- Paúl Carrasco, President of ORU/FOGAR, Prefect of Azuay, Ecuador

#### Conclusions and key messages:

The focus session clearly demonstrated the importance of ***promoting effective development co-operation also at the local level***. It presented evidence on how different innovative cooperation mechanisms and approaches advance effective development cooperation at the local level and thereby contribute towards implementing the post-2015 development agenda at the local level. The panelists stressed the key ***role of Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) in promoting, building and sustaining dynamic transformative partnerships from the bottom up***. They are key for promoting sustainable development but also critical agents for establishing the social contract between the state and the people. LRGs are the primary point of institutional contact for the majority of individuals and assure that any future local development policy, from service delivery to wider programmes for citizen empowerment and participation will focus on individuals and communities. The panelists expressed their ***satisfaction that finally LRGs are also represented in the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation*** through the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments on the Post-2015 Agenda and toward Habitat III (GTF). However, it is still in dispute that largely it is only in documents, since in Accra, there were no representatives of regional organizations invited to address matters of cooperation for local development. Another evidence for the increasing recognition of LRGs is their role in co-organising the currently ongoing consultation on localizing the post 2015 agenda together with UNDP and UN HABITAT.

It is proposed ***to search for a new methodology that allows the implementation of the Agenda Post 2015 from a territorial perspective***, to avoid the experience of the Millennium Development Goals, where many regions got to know the mechanisms of action but too late to achieve the objectives proposed.

***Decentralized Cooperation (DC) was recognized as an efficient and innovative cooperation mechanism*** that adds value through peer to peer knowledge sharing and by the development of coherent policies on issues of mutual concern. While direct cooperation between LRGs is the main modality, LRGs are more and more articulating their interventions with within a multilateral development cooperation framework.

The session also provided ***evidence on how the Local Economic Development (LED) approach promotes inclusive development partnerships at the local level, thereby harnessing the endogenous potential of territories*** and playing a critical role in achieving inclusive economic growth, creating decent jobs and delivering basic socio economic services. Panelists agreed that innovative development cooperation modalities such as SS and TC are effective international partnership tools that should be considered for implementing the Global Partnership principles at the local level.

Finally, it is also recognized that a paradigm has changed since Busan, overcoming the concept of "aid" and introducing the cooperation and development; however in some countries the mental conditioning of "assistance still persists" (donor-recipient).

#### Key messages

- Localizing the Global Partnership principles will be a crucial contribution towards a successful implementation of the post 2015 agenda at the local level.
- LRGs are key actors for ensuring inclusive representation and participation, shaping effective and legitimate state–society relationships, poverty reduction, and economic development, thereby reducing inequality, strengthening social cohesion and contributing towards achieving the MDGs/SDGs.
- LRGs are critical development actors – within their own territories but also as development partners. National Governments as well as Development Partners need to ensure efficient support to build critical capacities of institutions of the state and civil society at local and intermediate levels in a balanced manner, thereby enabling them to fully take on their responsibilities within a post 2015 development framework.
- LRGs play a key role in promoting more effective development cooperation at the local level. Strengthening LRG led and UN supported integrated territorial development processes will unlock a considerable potential for achieving more effective development cooperation.
- Already tested and successfully implemented local level cooperation mechanisms and approaches such as Decentralized Cooperation and LED have a considerable potential to promote the Global Partnership principles and advance the implementation of the post 2015 agenda at the local level. Both build upon and establish local level partnerships to deliver real living standard improvements for the people and to at the same time influence the global development agenda.
- The Post-2015 development goals will only be implemented effectively if they are embedded into national and local processes and actions. National and local ownership and

commitment will thus determine their success. Therefore, the challenge in defining the SDGs will be entrenching them in national and sub national strategies, plans, and policies.

- ORU FOGAR and UNDP are committed to continue their strategic alliance to further strengthen the role of intermediate Governments in the development and sustainability agenda within the framework of the Global Partnership, the Post 2015 agenda and other global processes.

#### Important Quotes

- "Participation of regional authorities creates added value to development, greater efficiency and creates jobs."
- "Public policies are best when there is accountability and public oversight."
- "We analyzed the need to implement the Agenda Post 2015 through a more direct contact with the citizen".
- "We moved from the concept of aid to emphasize cooperation and development, but in some cases that has only been in paper".
- "The global partnership must incorporate regional representative bodies (ORU-FOGAR, Y OLAGI) as articulators for the implementation of the Post-15 Agenda".
- "The regional and local authorities have common needs and interests, which cannot be underestimated in the search for more effective development cooperation".
- "We have to design a roadmap that - based on competencies and responsibilities of territories and the national level - allow the most effective implementation of development cooperation".
- "We must broaden the tax base for more resources. Transferring skills and money to local authorities to implement development policies is of outmost importance".
- "The alternative is to move to federalism, achieve Decentralized States capable of boosting their own development".