



clgf

# Bulletin

## commonwealth

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# Localising the new Sustainable Development Goals

## #urbanSDG

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### CLGF member of UNACLA

CLGF has been accepted as a new member of the UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, UNACLA. CLGF Chairperson Mayor Lawrence Yule was represented by Cllr Mpho Moruakgomo at the UNACLA meeting held in New York on 27 September.

### CLGF at DeLoG's annual meeting

CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright participated and made a presentation at the annual meeting of the Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG) network of development partners on 9-10 September in Bonn on the role of decentralisation and local governance for the New Urban Agenda and a successful implementation of the SDGs.

### CLGF takes centre stage at 3rd World Forum on LED

CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright moderated a key session of the World Forum on LED in Turin on 13-16 October, with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and other dignitaries and development partners.

## Commonwealth News in brief

### Crowdfunding to 'democratise' development financing

Crowdfunding was heralded as a potential source of billions of dollars of financing for developing countries by experts and policy-makers at a global conference in Ethiopia organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat on the fringes of the United Nations Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa.

### CMAG's focus on democratic governance

The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) made up of foreign ministers from nine Commonwealth countries met at the UN HQ on 26 September to discuss implementation of their enhanced mandate, enabling them to protect democratic governance and the rule of law more effectively.

# C O M M E N T

by **Carl Wright**, Secretary-General



**As this issue of our Bulletin reports, CLGF working with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and other partners worldwide, has been successful in ensuring that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN in September 2015 takes into account the role of local and regional governments in respect of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which now replace the old Millennium Development Goals, for the period 2015-30.**

This achievement has required much concerted effort over the past 2-3 years, including ensuring that both the 2013 and 2015 CLGF conference in Kampala and Gaborone respectively focused on the UN post-2015 negotiations, as did a number of other CLGF events, for example the 2014 Port Moresby Conference organised by CLGF Pacific. It has also required frequent inputs into UN meetings and consultations at a wide range of venues, including CLGF co-chairing important events on localisation (Turin, 2014) and capacity-building (Chisinau, 2015). CLGF's close relationship with key development partners such as UNDP, whose Administrator, Helen Clark, played a pivotal role in the UN negotiations, and who addressed both our 2013 and 2015 conference, also played its part.

However the real task starts now, which is helping our members to implement the 2030 Agenda. This was anticipated by the CLGF Gaborone Declaration which envisages developing and implementing a 15 year strategy to support members in taking forward modalities to localise the SDGs so as to ensure no one is left behind. CLGF expects Commonwealth Governments, which meet in Malta in November 2015, to ensure a joined-up Commonwealth approach to implementing the 2030 Agenda, engaging all relevant members of the Commonwealth family, intergovernmental, governmental like CLGF, and also civil society. CLGF further looks to key Commonwealth Governments and development partners to provide it with adequate resources to undertake this task effectively and on a sustainable basis over the next 15 years.

Inevitably, particular attention will focus on addressing the SDG on climate change in the aftermath of the Paris COP21 Conference, an event which will have a strong local government presence, including by CLGF. However all of the SDGs in the 2030 Agenda have a local government component, including SDG 11 on cities and human settlements, which will no doubt be one of the main building blocks for the important Habitat III Conference in Quito in 2016. The new Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network, established by CLGF in Gaborone in June, and which had its first meeting in Singapore in October, will have a significant part to play in implementing the goals and local targets.

Securing the local government component of the 2030 Agenda has been one of the key milestones achieved by CLGF in the 20 years since it was established in 1995. It has also been one of the most rewarding and productive activities I have personally had the privilege to have been involved in during this time. It is my strong hope that when the 2030 Agenda concludes in 15 years from today, real progress will have been made in achieving all of the SDGs. I further hope that local and regional government, working alongside its partners in central government, in the private sector and in civil society and academia, will have played a major role in ensuring that no-one is left behind in the vital process of global development.

## Boosting women's participation in the Pacific

**Women are heavily underrepresented in positions of leadership in the Pacific islands. The Pacific FLOW programme aims to increase women's representation in public leadership across three Pacific island countries - Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands - to work towards greater gender equality through increased local government support for women's leadership and policies and services that are more gender responsive.**

A key priority of the programme is to strengthen relationships between civil society organisations

(CSOs) and local governments to increase coherence and get greater commitments to gender equality at all levels of government.

In October, CLGF Pacific held a one day dialogue on advancing gender equality in Buka, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea (PNG). Members of the Buka Urban Council and local women's CSOs met to discuss and develop ways they could collaborate and work together. Such dialogue is critical to ensure local governments are better informed when developing policies and solutions, and at the same time it also helps inform CSOs of the roles, responsibilities and avenues for collaboration within local

government structures. Bougainville CSOs and NGOs represented at the event included UN Women, CARE International, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, Bougainville Women's Federation and the Bougainville division of the Safe Houses Project. Three women leaders from local Council of Elders (the traditional system of local government present in Bougainville) also joined the meeting.

The meeting followed a study visit in September when a team from Buka Urban Council, including Cllr Helen Aron the sole women councillor of the Buka Urban Council, travelled

to Honiara City Council (HCC) in the Solomon Islands. The week long south-south exchange included attendance at a two day women in local government workshop, CSO dialogue, and involved members of the Buka team attached to Heads of Division within the HCC to learn good practices and methods in the way council is run which could be replicated to the Bougainville, including the running of local government elections, governance, micro-finance schemes, citizenship education, collaborating in sports and market improvement initiatives. The opportunity provided an avenue to further strengthen and advance the council's gender action plans.





# Clear challenges for cities from new SDGs

Across the Commonwealth the degree of urbanisation varies considerably: while Commonwealth Africa is 40.8% urban, Commonwealth South-East Asia is 78.2% urban and in 2016, Habitat III will seek to define a New Urban Agenda. With this in mind, CLGF in cooperation with the UNDP's Global Centre for Public Service Excellence and the Government of Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities, organised a workshop on Cities 2030: vision, leadership and public service. The workshop focused on what the 2030 Agenda means for cities and how they can contribute to achieving the SDGs. The workshop was the first time that members of CLGF's new Commonwealth Sustainable Cities network had a chance to meet and share ideas.



Photo: Chensyuan, Creative Commons

With more than 50% of the world's population now living in urban areas, all cities are facing challenges to meet the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the next 15 years. As powerful drivers of the economy cities and their leaders have a powerful voice in driving and delivering national agendas. City leaders must make sure that localisation of the SDGs is firmly in the national priorities. From local and city government perspectives, the SDGs are bottom-up.

The SDGs provide local government with a real opportunity to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development. Cities are at the forefront of this and, while all the SDGs are in some way relevant to local government and the services they provide, SDG 11 "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" throws out clear challenges for cities to address the key dimensions of sustainable development - economy, society and environment. Visionary city leadership and planning, accountable and inclusive institutions, and sensible risk taking is critical to these processes.

Representatives from cities in Cyprus, India, Jamaica, Namibia, New Zealand, South Africa, UK, and Zambia, attended the meeting in Singapore in early September, the first CLGF meeting in Singapore in its 20-year history. The workshop looked at issues including city leadership, aligning the SDGs with city agendas, practical steps in implementing the SDGs including efficient use of resources, and data capture.

The representatives concluded that the key challenges for cities include unemployment, water scarcity, rapid urbanisation, renewable

“The post-2015 agenda must be relevant for urban dwellers. Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost.”

*A new global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development, report of the UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the post-2015 agenda.*

energy supply, and food security. Cities must focus on core areas of need such as being inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. They need to build resilient infrastructure and promote economic growth and employment. They noted that continuous consultation with citizens is paramount to ensure that prioritisation and policy-making is informed and has the backing of local people. City planning embraces a wide range of stakeholders including civil society and the private sector.

## New Commonwealth sustainable cities network

One of the outcomes of the meeting was that cities should be able to share knowledge on successful strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda, through direct city-to-city partnerships and CLGF's new Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network (CSCN).

"Adaptive, innovative, creative and smart city leadership and management have never been more important. We need to prepare and support cities to be equipped to live up to the expectations that are now riding on them. This will be our goal with our Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network - which will be a policy forum for exchanging good practice and ideas to learn from each other and face the challenges ahead," said CLGF

Chairperson Lawrence Yule.

Singapore itself can demonstrate the achievements of recent years while still looking ahead to future challenges and opportunities. In the 50s and 60s Singapore was plagued by slums, poverty and other development challenges. Today its population is increasing and becoming more diverse thanks to foreign workers and the Government of Singapore which has adopted a framework of a competitive economy, a sustainable environment and high quality of life as a framework for its planning and as championed by the Centre for Liveable Cities which is based there."

Because of CLGF's unique central and local government membership, CLGF can help promote partnership and dialogue between mayors and ministers in terms of implementing the 2030 Agenda," said CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright. "We hope that through this city network we can help these cities ensure that their concerns and development and financial needs are recognised in national policy-making."

The CSCN has now set up a Steering Committee of Mayors including the mayors of Kingston and St Andrew, Jamaica; Strovolos, Cyprus and Windhoek, Namibia.

More than 150 world leaders came together at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September in New York to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a set of universal goals, applying to countries at all stages of development.

The 17 new SDGs, also known as the Global Goals, aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, build strong institutions and partnerships, and more.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a product of unprecedented global consultation and dialogue, in which local and regional governments have actively participated. CLGF, with key international partners, has played a direct role in shaping the new SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including developing the concepts of localising the SDGs and localising resources. The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III (GTF) in which CLGF is a leading partner, has been engaged throughout the UN consultations which have been pivotal in ensuring that local government's voice is heard and there is a clear commitment to localisation.

CLGF's 2015 conference in Gaborone, Botswana took place at a very opportune time to look at the next steps forward and agreed Vision 2030 for how local government can play a full part in the multi-level, multi-stakeholder approach to development and tackling poverty. Speaking at the 2015 Commonwealth Local Government Conference in June, CLGF Chairperson Mayor Lawrence Yule said, "It is important

to recognise the interconnectedness of economic development at the global, regional, national and local levels and to ensure that local government's role is mainstreamed into all levels of planning and operations. For local government to play a full role in supporting the achievements of national and global development targets such as the SDGs, it is essential that adequate resources and powers to access own-source revenue are devolved to the local," he said.

CLGF's strong advocacy role has been successful - the 2030 Agenda gives explicit recognition to the role of local and sub-national government, both in respect of specific SDGs, such as SDG16 *on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*; SDG11 *on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements*, and in the provisions relating to the implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs; as well as the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda*, the outcome statement of the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia which acknowledges the need for scaling up the financing to strengthen capacities of municipalities and other local authorities.



*CLGF represented by Board member Cllr Mpho Moruakgomo and Secretary-General Carl Wright as part of the GTF delegation witnessed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in New York and attended various side events to assess the role of cities and local leaders in the 2030 Agenda going forward. These included a high level event by International IDEA on accountability, transparency and participation, addressed by CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright alongside a number of Heads of Government.*



**Addis Ababa Action Agenda** of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development *commits to scaling up international cooperation to strengthen capacities of municipalities and other local authorities, supporting cities and local authorities of developing countries, implementing resilient and environmentally sound infrastructure, including energy, transport, water and sanitation, and sustainable and resilient buildings using local materials.*

# actions, w SDGs



With the 2030 Agenda due to come into effect in January 2016, it is vital for local and regional governments to have access to information on why the SDGs matter to them. One of the most significant and successful initiatives of CLGF has been tirelessly pushing for all goals to take into account local challenges and opportunities at all stages of the process, from setting of goals and targets, to the means of implementation, the indicators used to monitor progress and the structure and mechanism of the new global partnership for sustainable development.

CLGF's efforts have been rewarded with world leaders acknowledging the need for local governments and their associations to be strengthened in order for them to fully engage in the implementation process, as the challenges faced are universal and need to be addressed together by all territories big and small and in all countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This has led to growing acceptance of the bottom-up approach to development and emphasis on the localisation of the implementation of the SDGs.



"It is so important that we work together to build the capacity of mayors and all those concerned in planning and running sustainable cities. When we unlock local solutions, we will advance global progress."

*UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon speaking at UN Sustainable Cities Days event, December 2013*



"Decentralisation processes and effective local governance contribute significantly to deepening democracy and local empowerment, which is critical for the successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda."

*Dr Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta speaking at the 2015 CLGF Conference in Botswana*



"Most critical objectives and challenges of the post-2015 development agenda will certainly depend on local action, community buy-in and local leadership, well coordinated with all levels of governance. Accountable local governments can promote strong local partnerships with all local stakeholders".

*Rt Hon Helen Clark, CLGF Patron and Administrator UNDP speaking at the 2015 CLGF Conference in Botswana*

## Implementing the 2030 Agenda

There is much that local governments are already doing in many areas covered by the SDGs and this experience and know-how will now need to be linked into the new 2030 strategy. In line with the recommendations of the *Gaborone Declaration - Local Government Vision 2030*, CLGF is working towards developing a 15 year strategy for local government, supporting its members to facilitate national and provincial dialogue on ways in which they can work together to implement the 2030 Agenda, noting that the new SDGs apply, developed as well as developing, small and large.

The next big event in the local and regional government calendar - the Habitat III Conference in Quito in October 2016 - will not only be the first UN Global conference to be held after the adoption of SDGs but also an opportunity to make a qualitative leap forward in the relationship between the UN and the local governments. It will focus on urbanisation, defining the new urban agenda for the international community. CLGF as part of the Global Taskforce will be calling on UN to officially acknowledge local authorities as full partners in the Habitat Agenda and to give local and regional government networks a more direct role and increased responsibilities within the governing bodies of UN-Habitat.

## UN SDGs summary

1		SDG 1: No poverty
2		SDG 2: Zero hunger
3		SDG 3: Good health and well-being
4		SDG 4: Quality education
5		SDG 5: Gender equality
6		SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
7		SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy
8		SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
9		SDG 9: Industry, innovation, infrastructure
10		SDG 10: Reduced inequalities
11		SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
12		SDG 12: Responsible consumption, production
13		SDG 13: Climate action
14		SDG 14: Life below water
15		SDG 15: Life on land
16		SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
17		SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

source: UNDP website



# Local Government 2030: Achieving the Vision

Commonwealth Local Government Conferences are high level forums for discussing issues around local governance and decentralisation, for setting policy directions and for sharing knowledge and experience. CLGF's 2015 conference, held in Gaborone, Botswana opened by HE President Khama of Botswana, was a highly successful event with some 600 delegates attending from more than 40 countries. It debated *Local government Vision 2030* – local government's role in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development – looking at local democracy and good governance, economic growth and local development, and creating sustainable cities and local governments.

The 2015 Conference took place at a critical time to agree together how local government, working with central government and other partners, can actively contribute to the achievement of the agreed development targets and can actively contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Delegates at the conference concluded that for local government to play its full role in achieving the SDGs by 2030, it needs to be empowered, capacities need to be reinforced, governance strengthened and citizens should be more engaged in the democratic process. Most importantly there needs to be strong financing mechanisms and support for infrastructure as well as service delivery; with more equitable fiscal decentralisation, reduction of unfunded mandates, and improved access and mobilisation for own source revenue, as well as better access to international funds such as those for climate change and development. They called on CLGF to develop a 15 year strategy for local government focusing on supporting its members in developing and implementing modalities to localise the SDGs.

The outcome of the conference *The Gaborone Declaration – Local government vision 2030* emphasises the urgent need for holistic national urban policies to provide for effective planning which recognises the importance of reducing urban sprawl and strengthening urban-rural linkages. And it points out the growing need to strengthen linkages between local government and national planning and budgeting systems for effective localisation of the SDGs. It calls on Habitat III in 2016 to address these issues and the effect these have on the quality of life of citizens.

CLGF will take forward the *Local government Vision 2030* agreed in Gaborone to help set its

work priorities for the next 15 years. CLGF's task for the next decade is to deliver on the ambitious vision for local governments that delegates at the 2015 conference agreed, including for CLGF's own work for the period 2015-2030 supporting its members in national, regional and local governments empowering them and boosting their capacity to deliver development locally, to improve services, and deliver a better quality of life for the two billion people who live in the Commonwealth.

“ The post-2015 agenda is an enormous opportunity to finish the unfinished business of the MDGs and accelerate inclusive and sustainable development for Commonwealth citizens. By strategically partnering with like-minded bodies such as CLGF, the Commonwealth's effort has greater impact on accelerating the implementation of the SDGs. ”

*Dr Josephine Ojiambo, Deputy Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat*

Speakers at the conference included **Hon Dr Joseph Muscat**, Prime Minister of Malta, **Rt Hon Helen Clark**, Administrator UNDP, **Abdoulie Janneh**, Executive Director Mo Ibrahim Foundation, **Hon Pravin Gordhan**, Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, South Africa, **Dr Aisa Kirabo Kacyira**, Deputy Executive Director, UN Habitat, **Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax**, Executive Secretary SADC, **Dr Josephine Ojiambo**, Deputy Secretary General, Commonwealth Secretariat, amongst others. **HRH the Prince of Wales (Prince Charles)** addressed delegates in video message where he emphasised the importance of a holistic approach to urban and rural planning and development.

## News in brief

### New guidebook on revenue management for Sri Lanka

CLGF along with the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities and the Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils launched a guidebook on provincial revenue management on 1 October. The launch took place in Kurunegala, North West Province. The guidebook is based on the lessons learnt from various *pradeshiya sabha* (municipal council) pilot projects carried out in a number of provinces in Sri Lanka and includes effective strategies to improve arrears collection and mobilise existing and new sources of revenue. The launch was attended by the Chief Minister of North Western Province Hon. Dharmasiri Dassanayake and provincial local government officers and heads of local government bodies from the province.

### First of its kind LED policy launched in Ghana

Ghana has launched the National Local Economic Development (LED) Policy, the first of its kind in the West African region with the help of CLGF and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana. Building on CLGF's West Africa members meeting in Abuja last year, CLGF's West Africa office has hosted various capacity assessments and LED training workshops in councils including the Ayensuano eastern region on 4-25 August and Nadowli, Kaleo district assembly on 1-4 September. The trainings are being rolled out in three pilot projects on enterprise and skills development in the country as part of CLGF's DFID-funded programme in the region to strengthen local government.

### LED workshops conducted in Kiribati

CLGF Pacific hosted a series of workshops on Local Economic Development in Betio Town Council and Eutan Tarawa council on 10-11 September and 15-16 September respectively, as part of a new EU funded LED project in the region. These workshops looked at ways in which councils can build the capacity of the participating councils in planning and implementing LED projects and activities in their communities. The new LED project will have pilots in three countries across the Pacific including Kiribati, Cook Islands and the Marshalls. The workshops were opening by CLGF Board member and Vice President Kiribati Hon Teima Onorio.

## Board members

### Africa

#### East

**Cllr Justus Kangwagye**, Chairperson, Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities

**Hon Dr Didas Massaburi**, Chairman, Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (*alternate*)

**Hon Adolf Mwesige**, Minister of Local Government, Uganda (*Vice Chairperson*)\*

#### Southern

**Rev Mpho MBW Moruakgomo**, President, Botswana Association of Local Authorities, Botswana\*

**Cllr Muesee Kazapua**, President of Association for Local Authorities in Namibia, Namibia (*alternate*)

**Hon Dr J N Phiri**, Minister for Local Government and Housing, Zambia

**Hon Phiywayinkosi M Mabuza**, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Swaziland (*alternate*)

#### West

**Hon Mohammed Doku**, President, National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana

**Hon Jules Doret Ndongo**, Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation, Cameroon

### Americas

**Mayor Darrell Bradley**, Belize City Council

**Mayor Scean Barnswell**, President, Association of Local Government Authorities, Jamaica (*alternate*)

**Cllr Michael Thompson**, Board of Directors, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada

**Cllr Yoland Jno Jules**, Chairman, Dominica Association of Local Government Authorities, Dominica (*alternate*)

**Hon Noel Arscott MP**, Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Jamaica\*

**Senator Hon Franklin Khan MP**, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, Trinidad and Tobago (*alternate*)

**Hon Hope Strachan MP**, Minister of Financial Services and Local Government, Bahamas

### Asia- Pacific

#### Asia

**Mayor Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana**, President, Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Sri Lanka

**Hon Dato' Abdul Rahman Dahlan**, Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government, Malaysia

#### Pacific

**Mayor Lawrence Yule**, President, Local Government New Zealand (*Chairperson*)\*

**Mayor Troy Pickard**, President, Australian Local Government Association (*alternate*)

**Hon Teima Onorio**, Vice President and Minister of Internal Affairs and Social Development, Kiribati

### Europe

**Cllr Nick Small**, Local Government Association of England and Wales

### Members at Large

**Cllr Philip McPhee**, President, Bahamas Association of Local Authorities (*Vice Chairperson*)\*

**Cllr Thabo Manyoni**, Chairperson, South African Local Government Association, South Africa

### Associate members

**Dr Bhaskar Chakrabarti**, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, India

**Professor P S Reddy**, University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa (*alternate*)

**Dr Eris Schoburgh**, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of the West Indies, Jamaica

**Dr Philip Amis**, International Development Department, University of Birmingham, UK (*alternate*)

### Co-opted members

**Dr Hon Mohammad Husnoo**, Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands, Mauritius

**Hon Slumber Tsogwane**, Minister of Local Government, Botswana

**Hon Paula Bennett**, Minister of Local Government, New Zealand

**Hon Venkaiah Naidu**, Minister of Urban Development, India

### Ex officio

**Simon Baker**, Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, UK Honorary Treasurer \*

**Carl Wright**, Secretary-General \*

\* Denotes members of the Executive Committee

## Publications

### CLGF's 20th anniversary publication

2015 marks the 20th anniversary of CLGF since it was founded in 1995 as a focus for local democracy and formally endorsed by Commonwealth Heads of Government when they met in Auckland that year. CLGF's official 20th anniversary publication reports on the 20 years of CLGF and how the organisation has gone from strength to strength in its influence and impact, helping shape decentralisation policies and build local government capacity to deliver, as well as promoting the importance of local government's role in development. This commemorative publication will be launched at CLGF's Annual Reception on 18 November in London.

### Commonwealth Local Government Handbook 2015-16

This 2015/16 edition of the Commonwealth Local Government Handbook is a complete reference book of local government in the Commonwealth. Updated and revised, it details the systems of local government in Commonwealth countries and covers the legal basis for local government, how local government is structured, how elections take place, what systems are in place for community involvement, the structure of intergovernmental relations and monitoring systems, how local government is financed and what services local government is responsible for. The profiles are in a format that allows easy country-to-country comparison. Produced by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and published by Publications UK Ltd; copies can be ordered by emailing [info@clgf.org.uk](mailto:info@clgf.org.uk).

### 2015 Commonwealth Local Government Conference report

The report of the 2015 Commonwealth Local Government Conference on *Local government 2030: achieving the vision* is now available on the conference website [clgc2015.org](http://clgc2015.org). Copies will be sent to all delegates who attended the event.

### Commonwealth e-journal of local governance

The latest issue of the CJLG includes papers on property tax with case studies from India, Ghana, Malawi and Sierra Leone and covers local government in Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. You can also find an update from CLGF on the sustainable development goals and the role for local government. Check out [www.clgf.org.uk/commonwealth-journal-of-local-governance/](http://www.clgf.org.uk/commonwealth-journal-of-local-governance/) to find out more.



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## November

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|-------|--|
| 18    | <b>CLGF European members meeting</b><br>Theme: Response to the migration and refugee crisis<br>LGA, London |
| 18    | <b>CLGF's 20th Anniversary Reception</b><br>Marlborough House, London                                      |
| 19-20 | <b>CLGF Executive Committee meeting</b><br>CLGF HQ, London   |
| 27-29 | <b>Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2015</b><br>Malta  |
| 24-26 | <b>Commonwealth Business Forum</b><br>Malta  |
| 22-24 | <b>Commonwealth Women's Forum</b><br>Malta   |
| 22-26 | <b>Commonwealth People's Forum</b><br>Malta  |
| 21-25 | <b>Commonwealth Youth Forum</b><br>Malta   |
| 27    | <b>Meeting between CLGF and other Associated Organisations and Commonwealth Foreign Ministers</b><br>Gozo  |

## December

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 29 Nov -3  | <b>Africities Summit</b><br>Johannesburg, South Africa   |
| 30 Nov -11 | <b>UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21) including Climate Summit for local leaders on 4 December</b><br>Paris, France |

# Enabling Indian municipalities to better facilitate LED

CLGF's DFID-funded Programme on Strengthening Local Economic Development in South Asia, is bringing together local government practitioners and LED experts from different Commonwealth countries to share experience and best practice with Indian city and municipality administrators as part of a pilot project to help build knowledge and understanding on LED and develop work programmes in two partner cities.

Working jointly with the Government of Madhya Pradesh's Urban Administration and Development Department, the pilot project is focussing on the cities of Indore and Jabalpur. The projects have been linked to government's existing framework for implementing the *National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)*, which aims to improve the livelihood of the urban poor in areas with a population over 100,000. Starting from this baseline, the pilot is working towards developing a strategic approach to LED support across all communities with a particular focus on marginalised groups in addition to building knowledge and capacity of councillors and city administrators.

Several activities have been carried out in the two cities - Indore and Jabalpur, between April and October 2015, through LED exchanges and capacity building workshops that brought together expert practitioners from Basildon Borough Council and the South African Local Government Association and key stakeholders including self help groups, municipal corporations, councilors, mayors and local businesses to help enhance the understanding and approaches to support LED by sharing international best practices



and discussing successful replicable models of LED. Discussions also focused on strategies for engaging with the private sector and enabling the cities to draw a road map for an inclusive local economic development partnership.

One of the LED experts involved in the pilot exchange project - Letticia Naid, LED Programme Manager, South African Local Government Association (SALGA) said, "These engagements have provided some useful insights into local needs and the role municipalities can play in facilitating LED. The workshops have enabled participating municipalities to better understand the actual impact of service delivery on the livelihoods of the communities and ultimately on the local economy".

Building on the work carried out under the pilot project, the next phase of the LED exchange programme will focus on implementing some of key priorities identified during the exchange by helping municipalities draw a long term LED strategy linked to their NULM commitment that can be part of their work programme to support local communities.



## CLGF's 20th Anniversary publication

**20**  
CELEBRATING CLGF'S  
20TH ANNIVERSARY

