Friday, 17 April 2015 – Venue: Conference Room 9  
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.  
Nairobi, Kenya

SIDE EVENT

Metropolitan Governance – bridging the rural urban divide

BMZ / German Development Cooperation

Background

With increasing functional and spatial inter-linkages, cities and their hinterland move closer to each other and metropolitan regions become the predominant form of human settlement worldwide. Governance systems are challenged to keep pace and enhance the rural urban continuum. As governance is the software the metropolitan structures cannot work properly without, practical mechanisms that could make civil society, businesses as well as different political actors work together are crucial to understand and improve metropolitan regions' functionality and efficiency. A coherent strategy that copes with the complexity of opportunities and challenges of good metropolitan governance in the context of international development cooperation is needed.

German Development Cooperation / GIZ and UN-Habitat developed a joint study in order to operationalize the concept of governing metropolitan regions with a view to developing a relevant assessment methodology, applicable tools and policy recommendations. The study draws on the results of case studies undertaken by FMDV in Durban (South Africa), Bandung (Indonesia) and Guadalajara (Mexico).

The session aims to (i) jointly reflect (peer review) on the findings and conclusions of the GIZ/UN-Habitat joint study with partners, donors and city representatives; and (ii) discuss policy recommendations.
The core questions are:

- Depending on the regions and contexts, how can development partner better support and facilitate the implementation of practical metropolitan governance arrangements?

- Which governance instruments are suitable to harness the transformative force of urbanization in metropolitan regions, with special attention to equity, accountability and participation?

- What financial mechanisms exist to stimulate metropolitan cohesion and economic development, support basic service delivery and drive sustainable urban development?

- What are the needs for practitioners, local governments and city representatives in the field of metropolitan governance?

The session is directed at mayors, city representatives as well as international development organizations. The session is designed to be exploratory in nature and practice-oriented in order to give some inputs to the main lines of a metropolitan governance practical framework.

Programme
Moderation: BMZ (GIZ)

Speaker:

- Mr. Michael Sutcliffe, ex-City Manager Durban, South Africa (tbc)

  Guiding question: Which framing governance settings with respect to the role of the state as well as the local governments are conducive for a well governed metropolitan region? What are the needs for practitioners, local governments and city representatives in Durban?

- City representative, Johannesburg, South Africa (tbc)

  Guiding question: How to aim for sustainable development of a metropolitan region within the interdependencies of the rural-urban continuum in your city with special attention to equity, accountability and participation?

Discussants:

- Michael Gruber, Senior Sector Economist, KfW, Germany (tbc)

  Input on financing modalities options and mechanisms for sustainable urban development of German development cooperation.

- Mr. Joe Hooper, UN-Habitat, Branch Coordinator – Urban Legislation, Land and Governance (tbc)

  Input on the potentials and benefits of good metropolitan governance arrangements in order to make best use of rural-urban linkages.
Purpose
The side event is directly related to GC 25 Sub-Theme 1: "Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages Across the Continuum of Human Settlements to Harness the Transformative Power of Urbanization for Sustainable Development". The metropolitan-regional approach overcomes the traditional divide between urban and rural development.

It is a territorial and functional perspective, not limited to administrative boundaries, local or sectoral issues. It allows looking at the developmental dynamics, at the flows (commuters, money, food, migrants, pollution, etc.) and not the static situation, hence opening to a more integrated management. Metropolitan governance is part of the solution to adopt an integrated territorial approach and make use of the potential of rural-urban linkages. Governance structures are crucial for improving efficiency in delivery of basic services with a particular focus on the poor and shape regional development in terms of equity, economic development, infrastructure planning, environmental protection, financial sustainability and safety.

The challenge is to find instruments that foster sustainable, equitable, efficient, transparent and civic engagement-favorable metropolitan regions. The metropolitan scale is part of UN-Habitat’s mandate and governance arrangements will be an essential focus of the New Urban Agenda.

Metropolitan regions have a high potential to be levers of change towards poverty reduction and sustainable urban development. Metropolitan governance is relevant for UN-Habitat’s normative work as metropolitan governance directly deals with the five principles for good governance at local and metropolitan scale (Sustainable, Efficient, Equitable, Accountable, Pro-citizen engagement) as well as the five principles for the National and Regional / Metropolitan scale (More Compact, Better Integrated, Better Connected, Socially Inclusive, Resilient to Climate Change).

Hosts and organizations involved
German Development Cooperation (GIZ (host), KfW), Fonds Mondial pour le Developpement des Villes (FMDV), UN-Habitat (Urban Legislation, Land, and Governance Branch)