



INFORMATIVE NOTE PREPARING THE MISSIONS OF A DELEGATION OF PRESIDENTS OF REGIONS (AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA) AND NETWORKS OF REGIONS (AIRF, CPMR, IT4ALL, OLAGI, NORTHERN FORUM, NRG4SD ...) TO COME TO NEW YORK TO MEET UNDP AND OTHER UN AGENCIES DURING WEEK 29 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER 2007

In September 2005, the UNDP Bureau for Partnerships has opened within the UNDP Geneva Office, the Hub for Innovative Partnerships (The HUB), which aims at:

- Develop strategic alliances with regions and local authorities in Europe in the framework of their decentralized cooperation with and through the UN: **mobilization of innovative resources** (human, finance ...);
- Support Country Offices to facilitate national partnerships frameworks for local governance and development with international, national and local multi-stakeholders: **Declaration of Paris**;
- Broker UN partnerships on local governance and development in developing countries with and through regions and local authorities to meet the MDGs: **UN Reform**.

So far the Hub has:

- Engaged major partnerships with various global associations of regions and cities (CPMR, NRG4SD, AIRF, OLAGI, Northern Forum, GLOCAL, UCLG), and national associations of local authorities;
- Facilitated the articulation of multi lateral, bilateral and decentralized cooperation partnerships and resources mobilisation efforts in four European countries (Belgium, France, Italy and Spain). Such cooperation with more European countries are expected;
- Drafted an Inter UN statement on a local approach of governance and development with and through regions and local authorities;
- Created a multi-donor Trust Fund focused on local governance and development: \$US 50 millions agreements are to be reached by 2007;

- 20 countries¹ benefiting from multi stakeholders mechanisms for local governance and development: ART GOLD;

The first International Convention on a regional approach of governance and development, jointly organized by UNDP - CPMR and Région Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur, March 2007 in Marseille, gathered some 1200 participants representing 200 regions, 56 national governments represented by Ministers or Directors, UN Agencies and EU.

The convention has demonstrated:

- The awareness of the potential role of regions in trying to control the inconveniences of globalization;
- the willingness of the regions to work with the United Nations System, to effectively achieve the MDGs, with reference to the UNDP ART GOLD initiative, as a good practice;
- Based on the successful 1980s experiences of the EU Territorial cohesion policy to speed up the integration the Spanish, Greek, Irish and Portuguese countries within the EU, through their regions, the issue of elaborating the same strategy for developing regions to undertake similar actions thanks to the support of the international AID community, was addressed.

Taking the opportunity of this event, the different 12 existing networks of Regions have decided to constitute themselves into a common forum of networks of regions (see the attached declaration).

During the different official meetings held during the Convention with Associations of regions, Presidents of regions, Bruce Jenks, UNASG, Director UNDP Bureau for Partnerships, Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner in charge of EU regional Policy, Michel Dellebarre, President of the EU Committee of regions and Eneko Landaburu EU Director Relex, and different directors of ILO, UNHCR, FAO, UNOPS, it was agreed that relations between Regions and Inter governmental bodies should be strengthen in order regions to better contribute to governance and development issues, in Less Developing Countries, in Developing Countries and in Countries in Transition.

During those meetings was discussed the visit of a delagation of Presidents of regions and heads of network of regions to New York to meet Kemal Dervis and different UNDP Director (BP, BDP, Regional Bureaux, UNCDF), UNDP / GEF Executive Coordinator as well as the President of the UN General Assembly, and other UN executive (UNICEF, UNDESA ...) based in New York. Same will be done after in Geneva and in Brussels.

The purpose of these meetings is to present and discuss on the different possibilities of strategic partnerships between regions and the United System on important issues

¹ Africa : Morocco, Libya, Mozambique, Gabon Mali, Senegal and Niger
 Asia : Sri Lanka and Indonesia
 Europe : Albania, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia
 Latin America : Colombia, Cuba, Dominican republic, Ecuador, Uruguay
 Middle East: Lebanon

such as governance, human development, energy and environment, the Mediterranean Union, south – south cooperation, etc. This could be reflected in the organisation of the second international convention on a regional approach of development to be held from May 12th to 14th, 2008 in Morocco (Region Tanger Tetouan).