

## DeLoG Charter<sup>1</sup>

### Background

The Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance is a network of bi- and multilateral development partners. It has been set up in 2006 in the aftermath of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) with the overall goal to harmonise donor activities and align support to national development policies in the field of decentralisation and local governance (DLG).

Since 2005, the global development agenda has substantially changed and influenced the DeLoG network. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) and other international agreements, such as the Paris Climate Agreement (2015), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) and the New Urban Agenda (2016), international stakeholders reaffirmed the importance of effective decentralisation reforms and the subnational level for sustainable development. Sustainable development needs decentralisation reforms, which enable well-functioning subnational and local governance.

### 1. Vision

*We strive to enable effective, inclusive and well-functioning subnational and local governance systems in DeLoG members' partner countries to promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local level.*

### 2. Mission

Our mission is to promote effective and coordinated Decentralisation and Local Governance (DLG) approaches amongst DeLoG members. We advocate for DLG at global, national, and subnational levels and contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the local level. Therefore, DeLoG:

- provides a platform for exchange and discussion,
- facilitates cooperation and coordination between its members and partners,
- functions as a knowledge hub,
- conducts joint learning and policy dialogue initiatives to build a common understanding on important aspects of DLG,
- supports DLG advocacy, focusing on the important role of DLG for localising the 2030 Agenda.

### 3. Members and Partners

The network is composed of members and strategic partners.

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<sup>1</sup> As discussed and agreed upon at the Annual Meeting in May 2018.



**a. Members**

Membership is open for development partners. Development partners are defined as bi- and multilateral donor and implementing agencies active in the field of DLG (e.g. respective ministries, state development agencies, UN agencies, Development Banks). Organisations may express their interest in joining the network as new members to the Secretariat. The Secretariat assesses the eligibility and prepares a proposal to the members for acceptance or rejection.

Members are willing to contribute their own experiences, time and resources, including the (potential) hosting of an Annual Meeting. Each member organisation appoints at least one “focal point” to DeLoG. The focal point may identify other representatives from their organisation to join the network for specific occasions/activities.

**b. Strategic Partners**

DeLoG holds and explores strategic partnerships with key stakeholders and recognised actors aiming at advancing DLG related issues. This includes for example well-developed networks, international platforms as well as organisations and institutions, which by their organisational character do not qualify as development partners as described above.

Strategic partners promote a multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance approach, provide new and innovative approaches to DLG and contribute to the outreach of the network. They can engage in discussions, contribute or even lead the activities of the work streams and attend Annual Meetings. There is no formal procedure to become a strategic partner. Partnership is defined by de-facto cooperation.

Strategic partners appoint one or several focal points who receive the regular updates sent out by the Secretariat.

A DeLoG member organisation may appoint a strategic partner as its representative in the network, in which case the strategic partner has full membership rights and obligations.

**4. Governance**

The DeLoG network works through the following governance structure:

**a. Annual Meetings**

The DeLoG network meets once a year physically in an Annual Meeting. Annual Meetings are hosted by a network member or a strategic partner, on a rotating basis. The host is supported by the Secretariat. All DeLoG members are invited and expected to join the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will provide space for networking, exchange, thematic discussions, working sessions to develop the annual work plan as well as decision taking on strategic orientations and activities of the network. Annual Meetings are open for participation of strategic partners. Furthermore, DeLoG can invite additional institutions.

## **b. Secretariat**

The DeLoG Secretariat<sup>2</sup> coordinates the activities of the network and provides support to the network. DeLoG members monitor and evaluate the performance of the Secretariat through a yearly conducted survey.

The Secretariat is responsible for

- communicating with and updating the network members and strategic partners, and facilitating communication amongst members and strategic partners,
- identifying, stimulating and managing the cooperation with new members and (strategic) partners,
- exploring partnerships with other development partners, networks and working groups,
- maintaining the website and producing the newsletter,
- conducting knowledge management and public relations,
- steering the Learn4Dev DLG Expert Group and organising joint DeLoG learning events,
- being an active member and represent DeLoG in the Learn4Dev network
- assisting the hosts of the Annual Meetings in its preparation, implementation and wrap-up,
- proposing and consolidating the annual work plan,
- monitoring the activities and progress in the work streams,
- facilitating the work and meetings of the SSG.

The DeLoG Secretariat gets in touch with all members on a regular basis and follows up on their membership.

## **c. Strategic Support Group (SSG)**

The Strategic Support Group (SSG) is composed of

- one representative from each of the funders,
- the previous host of the DeLoG annual meeting,
- the future host of the DeLoG Annual Meeting and
- one DeLoG member on a voluntary basis, rotating yearly.

The SSG can call on Strategic Partners to support the SSG. The SSG meets quarterly in virtual meetings. The SSG serves as a “sounding” board to the Secretariat to

- discuss the development of the network on a regular basis throughout the year, i.e.
  - discuss activities and progress within the work streams and follow-up on the implementation of the annual plan,
  - discuss and facilitate decision-making processes on strategic orientation and take decisions on ad-hoc issues that might arise in

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<sup>2</sup> The DeLoG Secretariat was established in 2008 and is based in Bonn at GIZ headquarters.



between the Annual Meetings. Decisions within the SSG are taken based on a consensus.

- support the Secretariat to broaden and sustain the network's financial basis,
- identify strategic cooperation with other networks/working groups,
- provide support to the Secretariat and the host in the organisation of the Annual Meeting regarding agenda setting, identification of possible expert inputs and in preparing decisions to be taken in plenary.

## 5. Mode of operation

### a. Communication

Relevant communication takes place through the Secretariat and the network members and strategic partners. The Secretariat is responsible for the internal and external network communication. *Internally*, the Secretariat ensures the communication via regular e-mail updates (approx. once a month). For *external* communication, i.e. advocating of the network and sharing of information beyond the network's members and partners, the DeLoG Secretariat produces a newsletter (quarterly), constantly updates the DeLoG website, uses twitter and cooperates with other communication platforms to spread relevant information on DLG.

DeLoG does not communicate members' official positions or policies. The views expressed in publications or events do not necessarily reflect the views of individual DeLoG members. Activities undertaken in the name of DeLoG must take place in agreement with the Secretariat and must be aligned with the annual DeLoG workplan.

### b. Work streams

DeLoG operates in work streams on topics agreed upon during the Annual Meetings.

#### *Mode of operation of work streams*

- Members and strategic partners identify the subjects, objectives and activities of the work streams during the Annual Meeting. All network members will agree on the work plan in the aftermath of the Annual Meeting in a written form (silence procedure; at least three-week deadline). The work plan functions as a protocol for the agreed activities.
- Each work stream defines a clear roadmap, including work stream members, annual priorities, envisaged outputs (and underlying activities).
- The Secretariat takes over the overall coordination of the work streams.
- Network members and strategic partners lead the respective outputs within the work streams.
- The Secretariat monitors the work stream activities. The leads of the respective outputs inform the Secretariat at least twice a year on activities and steps taken.

- Recent work stream activities and status of the work streams are shared in the DeLoG updates.

### c. Activities

Activities are agreed upon in the network's workplan. They include e.g. the organisation of the Annual Meeting and joint learning initiatives (e-learning, in-country and regional courses, thematic face-to-face courses), developing working papers, organise side-events at international conferences, and conducting research in cooperation with academia and research institutes. Activities are jointly organised and financed by DeLoG members, strategic partners and the Secretariat. The DeLoG Secretariat provides advice on ways to support DeLoG activities.

## 6. Funding

The network and its Secretariat rely on a diversified and stable funding structure. DeLoG members acknowledge a fair burden and cost sharing principle. Members can contribute through:

- Core funding (e.g. through a co-financing agreement):<sup>3</sup>
  - financing the running costs for the work of the Secretariat and a limited amount of activities
- Funding of additional selected activities:
  - the ability to implement certain activities depends on additional financial contributions, which go beyond the core funding of the Secretariat.

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<sup>3</sup> The funding of the DeLoG network and its Secretariat is secured by the German Ministry for International Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) until 2020. It will be necessary to establish a new financing scheme for the following years.



## Annex 1: List of DeLoG members<sup>4</sup>

### Bilateral Development Partners

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Country</b>
Austrian Development Agency	ADA	Austria
Belgian Development Agency	Enabel	Belgium
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	GIZ	Germany
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands		Netherlands
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs	MAE	France
French Development Agency	AFD	France
German Development Bank	KfW	Germany
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	BMZ	Germany
Global Affairs Canada		Canada
Irish Aid		Ireland
Lux Development	LuxDev	Luxembourg
Luxembourg Ministry for Foreign Affairs		Luxembourg
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland	Formin	Finland
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	Norad	Norway
Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	DANIDA	Denmark
Spanish Agency for International Cooperation	AECID	Spain
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	SIDA	Sweden
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	SDC	Switzerland
United Kingdom Department for International Development	DFID	United Kingdom
U.S. Agency for International Development	USAID	United States

### Multilateral Development Partners

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Region</b>
African Development Bank	AfDB	Africa
Asian Development Bank	ADB	Asia and Pacific Region
European Commission	EC	Europe
Inter-American Development Bank	IADB	America

<sup>4</sup> Please <http://delog.org/web/about/members/> for an up-to-date-list of members.



United Nations Childrens' Emergency Fund	UNICEF	Global
United Nations Human Settlements Programme	UN-Habitat	Global
UN Capital Development Fund	UNCDF	Global
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP	Global
World Bank	WB	Global

## Annex 2: List of Strategic Partners<sup>5</sup>

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Country/Region</b>
Cities Alliance	CA	Global
Commonwealth Local Government Forum	CLGF	Global
European Centre for Development Policy	ECDPM	Global
Global Fund for Cities Development	FMDV	Global
Global Task Force for local and regional governments	GTF	Global
International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities	VNG International	Netherlands
International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives	ICLEI	Global
Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development	OECD	Global
Swedish International Center for Local Democracy	ICLD	Sweden
The Hague Academy for Local Governance	THA	Netherlands
United Cities and Local Governments	UCLG	Global
United Cities and Local Governments Africa	UCLGA	Global

<sup>5</sup> Please see <https://delog.org/web/about/partners/> for an up-to-date list of strategic partnerships.