



# bulletin

COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

issue 2/02 July '2002

Promoting democratic local government

Sharing good practice

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## Brand new look for CLGF

**Members will see a new modern look to CLGF thanks to a new corporate identity unveiled in June**

For the first time CLGF has its own brand - distinct from that of other Commonwealth organisations - giving the organisation a new, modern look while retaining elements that reflect its Commonwealth links and its focus on local government.

The logo consists of three concentric circles representing CLGF's unique approach in bringing together the spheres of government. The circular format of the globe and blue and gold colours keep the links with the Commonwealth with the addition of



green for the third colour. The new logo also incorporates the acronym clgf.

CLGF launched its new look with the publication of the 2001-2 annual report on 12 June. There will be a gradual roll

out onto all its stationery, publications and other corporate materials.

"This is an important step for the CLGF," said Director Carl Wright.

"The new look gives CLGF its own, clear identity. It reflects CLGF as a modern organisation representing local government in the Commonwealth. As one of the key Commonwealth organisations, CLGF is unique in that it is the only forum that brings together all spheres of government - local, state, provincial and central - to promote democratic local government and share good practice."

The new logo was developed by designers at KPL as part of their work in producing the first Commonwealth Local Government Handbook for CLGF.

### Sammy Marks Centre confirmed for conference 2003

The Sammy Marks Conference Centre in Pretoria in Tshwane, South Africa has been confirmed as the venue for the 2003 Commonwealth Local Government Conference.

CLGF Director Carl Wright, Senior Policy Adviser Lucy Slack and Communications Consultant Sue Rhodes visited South Africa at the end of April for a meeting of the Conference 2003 Steering Group and met with CLGF Board Member Father Mkhathshwa to finalise the agreement on the venue. Father Mkhathshwa is Mayor of Tshwane and President of the South African Local Government Association.

CLGF has appointed local South African events management company Lakwela to help with the organisation of the conference, local fundraising and running a trade exhibition. CLGF is working with UK-based KPL on international sponsorship for the conference.

See back page or the CLGF's website [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk) for further details of the conference.

## Thanks to former Board members

The Rt Hon Hilary Armstrong MP received a presentation from CLGF Finance Sub Committee Board members at their meeting in London in March to thank her for her services as a Board CLGF member from 1999 until October 2001.

A similar presentation was made to outgoing treasurer Jeremy Smith who has now become Secretary General of the

Council for European Municipalities and regions.

After her move to become Chief Whip, Ms Armstrong was replaced as Board member by Nick Raynsford MP who is now UK Minister for Local Government and the Regions in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

CLGF's new Board member in Australia is the Rt Hon Wilson Tuckey.



### Zimbabwe suspension

Following the Commonwealth Observer Group report on the elections in Zimbabwe, the Commonwealth Chairpersons' Committee on Zimbabwe, comprising Prime Minister of Australia the Rt Hon John Howard, the President of Nigeria HE Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, and President of South Africa HE Thabo Mbeki, met on 19 March. The Committee decided to suspend Zimbabwe from the Councils of the Commonwealth for one year.

## Commonwealth news in brief

### Commonwealth Ministers' May meeting

The Hon Lt General Mompoti S Merathe MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Botswana was re-elected as Chair of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) at its meeting in Botswana on 16 and 17 May 2002. Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer MP was elected Vice Chair.

CMAG agreed to keep the situation in Fiji under review. Following a report on recent developments in Pakistan, ministers expressed concern that certain conditions relating to the conduct of the referendum were not in keeping with Commonwealth best electoral practice and agreed that Pakistan should remain suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth pending restoration of a democratic government.

The next CMAG meeting will be in London in October 2002.

### Focus on women's and children's health

Commonwealth countries are to give a greater priority to women's and children's health to reduce maternal, infant and child mortality and to help achieve the development goals set out in the UN 2000 Millennium Declaration.

Commonwealth Health Ministers agreed that women's and children's health will be given greater priority in the Commonwealth Secretariat's work at their 2002 pre-world Health Assembly meeting in Geneva, Switzerland in May.

### Democracy needs oversight

The Commonwealth has highlighted the central role played by oversight institutions in supporting democracy and says it is committed to strengthening these institutions in member countries.

Speaking at the 20th anniversary meeting of the Pacific Islands Society in May, Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon said: "Oversight institutions play a central role in the stability and health of small states, particularly the young democracies of the Pacific. Experience shows that without a number of oversight institutions no democracy can work effectively."

# Commonwealth co-ordination changes mark increased role for local government

## Director's introduction

Since the final report of the Commonwealth High Level Review Group was agreed at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in March, changes are already taking place to implement its recommendations.

There were two important principles which the report included and which the CLGF strongly welcomes: the report recognised local governments as "essential elements in the exercise of democratic government" and the decision to build closer links

between the official and unofficial and non-government Commonwealth, including the setting up of a new Co-ordination Committee for Commonwealth Agencies (CCCA).

The CCCA is an important step forward for the Commonwealth: it provides a practical way of recognising the strength of the Commonwealth as the sum of all its parts rather than one single organisation, and of building a more effective and successful Commonwealth for the 21st century. By bringing the key parts together we

will be able to use resources most effectively and ensure better consultation in setting principles and priorities.

As the CLGF Bulletin goes to press the announcement on the composition of the CCCA is imminent. Including the CLGF as the unique Commonwealth voice of local government will show the Commonwealth's commitment to recognising the importance of local government in developing democracy.

Carl Wright  
Director, CLGF

# Local government seeks positive ACP role

**The first meeting of Management Committee of the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Local Government Platform and representatives of the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat took place in Brussels in March.**

CLGF is a member of the Management Committee along with partner organisations.

The Platform was set up following explicit provision of local government as a partner under the ACP-EU Cotonou agreement. Through the Platform, local government is looking for close involvement in the programming, implementation and review of ACP-EU cooperation.

Speaking after the meeting, Platform Chair Akwasi Opong-Fosu, President of the African Union of Local Authorities, said:

"Local government looks forward to playing a positive role in the implementation of the Cotonou agreement and we are encouraged by the positive dialogue with the ACP and European Commission partners."

## ComHABITAT Director appointed

**The ComHABITAT Steering Committee has appointed Azim Manji as project Director to coordinate the work of ComHABITAT. Mr Manji took up his post in March.**

His work will involve advocacy, facilitating information sharing, knowledge exchange, promoting networking, and brokering technical assistance. ComHABITAT is the operational arm of the Commonwealth

Consultative Group for Human Settlements, an intergovernmental body focusing on improving human settlements, reducing poverty, and offering a Commonwealth response to the UN HABITAT agenda. CLGF is part of the Steering Committee with The Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation, The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, Homeless International, and the UK Department for International Development.

## Annual report published

CLGF Annual Report 2001-02 was published in June and will be sent to all members. Further copies are available on request or via the CLGF web site.



# European members back African initiative

European members of CLGF have backed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NePAD) at their meeting in Winchester, UK on 12 June 2002.

They also called for greater emphasis on local government's key role in helping deliver democracy and development initiatives.

The meeting, chaired by CLGF Board member Cllr Pat Watters, President of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, was addressed by Sunday Omoigade, Minister Councilor at the Nigerian High Commission in London and Dan Stemmer, First Secretary at the South African High Commission, Cllr David Kirk, Executive Member for Community Development, Hampshire County Council and local government leaders and senior officers.

NePAD is a pledge and a detailed programme formulated by Africa's leaders to eradicate poverty and put the continent on the path to

sustainable growth and development by improving governance and greater involvement in the world economy.

Following the meeting, CLGF Chair Len Duvall wrote to the Canadian and UK governments to ask for their continued support for NePAD at the G8 meeting of industrialised countries in Canada, and to ensure that local government is recognised as a key player in helping to achieve the NePAD objectives.

In his letters to Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Jean Chretien, Len Duvall asks that the two governments "ensure continued international support for an early implementation of NePAD" and asks that "in the implementation of NePAD, the important role of local government in delivering basic services, poverty reduction and promoting democratic values and good governance at local level is incorporated into the programme of work."



Dr Ian Micallef, President of the Local Councils Association of Malta and Cllr Ken Thornber, leader of Hampshire County Council discuss the NePAD initiative at the conference.

## News in brief

### Pacific partners meeting

CLGF held a successful second Pacific regional roundtable in Fiji in March 2002.

The meeting brought together local and central government from the region, and NGO representatives. The event was organised in collaboration with UN Habitat, UN ESCAP and TUGI (The Urban Governance Initiative), and marks the beginning of closer cooperation in the governance field between these international organisations and their local government partners in the Pacific.

The discussions were an opportunity to share information common to countries which are seeking to bring together traditional forms of governance with developing democratic structures. The challenge of raising revenue to meet the increasing demands for quality services was highlighted. Partners emphasised their commitment to continuing to work cooperatively under a second phase of the project, which is likely to focus on practical training and capacity building for councillors and officers.

CLGF is currently seeking funding support for the second phase.

### Working through central/local partnerships

CLGF is asking its members to use their central/local government partnership arrangements to take forward the issues and get backing for CLGF's work.

The latest of these was position paper on the High Level Review of the Commonwealth that went to the UK Central Local Partnership meeting at the end of March. UK Ministers received information about the successful outcomes of the High Level Review in relation to local government, CLGF's proposals for a new Initiative for Democracy and Good Governance in the Commonwealth; and sought support for the Commonwealth Local Government Good Practice Scheme.

Through the Local Government Association for England and Wales, CLGF has asked the Central Local Partnership to note its recommendations and give support to the partnership approach to the initiative for democracy and good governance.

Central/local government partnership is at the heart of the CLGF ethos. Other members, such as Local Government New Zealand, have used their central/local government partnership arrangements to make a case for their governments to raise these issues.

## Good Practice Scheme gets results

Projects funded by the CLGF Good Practice Scheme have been successful in resolving technical problems for local government, capacity building and improving the knowledge and skills in the partner organisations, according to the final report at the end of Phase One of the Scheme.

During the first phase, the Scheme supported 22 projects in 14 countries. They have tackled a wide range of issues from community safety to economic development and waste management.

Projects have been shown to have a direct impact on reducing poverty – one of the key aims of the Scheme which links local councils, local authority associations, and non governmental organisations with counterparts in other Commonwealth countries.

One such project was between Chesterfield in the UK and Tsumeb, Namibia where help with upgrading market facilities has helped to reduce disease and improve the environment in Tsumeb thanks to better hygiene and food preparation. Capacity building has resulted in traders having increased

confidence and forming their own community-based organisation.

Crawley Council in the UK worked with Lilongwe to improve their financial management systems. Lilongwe has seen a huge revenue growth of 18 million kwacha (about £100,000) during the project and debtors decreased from 65 per cent to five per cent, and a Corporate Finance Task Group has been set up including a variety of stakeholders.

For further information about the Scheme contact CLGF Senior Policy Adviser Lucy Slack or Project Officer Rahima Begum.

## Cities for citizens

Cities should belong to their citizens, said CLGF Director Carl Wright speaking at the first UN-Habitat World Forum in Nairobi in May.

"The authority and legitimacy of any city

council grows from its relationship with its citizens. This is defined not by fine words or formal laws, but by the quality of the services being delivered and by a clear strategy to tackle poverty. Often, however, citizens' aspirations for better services outstrip the ability of city councils to provide them, especially where the

latter are hampered by financial and other capacity."

"The provision of regular information by local councils to its citizens, accompanied by appropriate means of consultation on decisions taken is essential to ensuring effective and participatory democracy," he said.

## What's on..

8-11 July 2002

**Southern Africa Regional Workshop**  
in Maputo, Mozambique

16-17 July 2002

Meeting of the **CLGF Pacific Project Technical Advisory Committee**,  
Lautoka, Fiji

26 August – 4 September 2002

World Summit on Sustainable  
Development, Johannesburg, South Africa

21-22 October 2002

**CLGF Board meeting**, New Delhi, India

4-6 March 2003

**Commonwealth Local Government  
Conference 2003** Local Government  
Service Partnerships, Pretoria, Tshwane,  
South Africa

7 March 2003

**General meeting** of CLGF members,  
Pretoria, Tshwane, South Africa

For further information check out the  
CLGF website at [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk) or  
contact CLGF on tel: +44 (0) 20 7934  
9690, fax: +44 (0) 20 7934 9699; e-  
mail: [info@clgf.org.uk](mailto:info@clgf.org.uk).

## Commonwealth Local Government Conference Local Government Service Partnerships 4-6 March 2003 Pretoria, Tshwane, South Africa



A CLGF Conference hosted by Tshwane City Council, South Africa in partnership with the South African Local Government Association and the Government of South Africa

This three-day conference for policymakers and practitioners will look at the political and technical aspects of developing service partnerships and learn from case studies from across the Commonwealth on what makes a partnership successful, or not.

### The conference will:

- provide an opportunity to contribute to Commonwealth guidelines on good practice for successful local government service partnerships
- help shape CLGF's future policies, research and support for projects in this area and feed into Commonwealth policy and agenda setting
- provide a networking opportunity to meet with mayors and local government leaders, ministers, senior government and local government officials, the private sector, and NGOs
- provide an opportunity for creating new partnerships including with the private sector.

### Who should attend?

Ministers, local government leaders and managers, local government association leaders, and chief executives from the private sector, voluntary organisations, NGOs, and trade unions who work with local government.

### Sponsors

South African Local Government Association (SALGA)  
Department of Foreign Affairs, South Africa  
Department of Provincial and Local Government, South Africa  
The City of Tshwane



For further information look at the CLGF website [www.clgf.org.uk](http://www.clgf.org.uk) or e-mail  
us on [conference2003@clgf.org.uk](mailto:conference2003@clgf.org.uk) or fax +44 (0) 20 7934 9699

## The CLGF Board

### Chairperson:

Len Duvall OBE, Greater London Authority,  
UK\*

### Members:

Father Smangalis Mkhathshwa, President,  
South African Local Government  
Association

Clr Joseph Jella, National President,  
Association of Local Governments of Nigeria  
Charles Katiza, Secretary General,  
International Union of Local Authorities,  
Africa Section,

Clr Peter Woods,  
President, Local Government Association of  
New South Wales, Australia

Clr Jocelyne Guertin, Federation of Canadian  
Municipalities\*

Deputy Mayor Larel Thomas, Association of  
Local Government Authorities, Jamaica\*

The Hon Kwadwo Baah-Wiredu, Minister of  
Local Government and Rural Development,  
Ghana

Nick Raynsford MP, Minister for Local  
Government and Regions, UK

The Hon Ananth Kumar, Minister for Urban  
Development & Poverty Alleviation, India

The Hon M Venkaiah Naidu, Minister for  
Rural Development, India

The Hon Arnold Bertram, Minister of Local  
Government, Youth & Community  
Development, Jamaica

The Hon Matthew Walter, Minister of  
Community Development & Women's Affairs,  
Dominica

Dato Lokman Hikim bin Mohd.Jasan  
Secretary General, Ministry of Housing &  
Local Government, Malaysia  
Dr Jatin V Modi, President, All India Institute  
of Local Self-Government, India  
Professor Michael Clarke, Pro-Vice Chancellor,  
The University of Birmingham, UK

### Alternates

Clr Pat Watters, President Convention of  
Scottish Local Authorities, UK

Clr Peter S Siyovelwa, Chairman, Association  
of Local Authorities of Tanzania

Col Max Ng'andwe, President, Local  
Government Association of Zambia

Clr Dr Helen Nkandi-Shiimi, President,  
Association of Local Authorities of Namibia

Mayor Basil Morrison, President, Local  
Government New Zealand

Mayor Irving John, President, Caribbean  
Association of Local Government Authorities

The Hon Wilson Tuckey MP, Minister for  
Regional Services, Territories and Local  
Government, Australia

The Hon Sydney Mufamadi, Minister of  
Provincial & Local Government, South Africa

Professor P S Reddy, University of Durban-  
Westville, South Africa

Keith Sonnet, Head of Local Government  
Service Group, UNISON, UK

Michael Ashley, Director, Local Government  
International Bureau, UK *Honorary treasurer*  
Carl Wright *Director\**

\* Member of Sub-Committee on Finances  
and Membership



CLGF Board members and private sector sponsors meet Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon at the launch of the Commonwealth Local Government Handbook 2002 at Marlborough House, London in March.

## CLGF Contact Changes

Please note that CLGF's London staff e-  
mail addresses have changed. They are  
now all in the format  
[firstname.lastname@clgf.org.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@clgf.org.uk):

The full list of e-mail addresses for the  
London office is:

- [carl.wright@clgf.org.uk](mailto:carl.wright@clgf.org.uk)
- [lucy.slack@clgf.org.uk](mailto:lucy.slack@clgf.org.uk)
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Telephone numbers at the CLGF Pacific  
Project Office in Fiji have also changed to  
seven digit numbers. The new contact  
numbers are: tel: + 679 330 0257; fax:  
+ 679 330 2729; e-mail  
[ayjalmein@is.com.fj](mailto:ayjalmein@is.com.fj).