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LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

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- CLGF patrons:**
- HE John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana
 - Rt Hon Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP
 - Hon Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu
 - HE President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda



@CLGF_News

Greg Munro new CLGF Secretary-General



Dr Greg Munro has been named as the new CLGF Secretary-General by the CLGF Board. Dr Munro, a South African national, will take up this post with effect from August 2016, based at CLGF

headquarters in London. His role will be to lead the organisation in meeting the challenges of localising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, delivering a comprehensive programme for CLGF's members in promoting local democracy and decentralisation and tackling key issues for local government internationally, working with the Commonwealth Secretariat and other partners. He will participate in the annual meeting of the CLGF Board and the new Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network, London, 11-13 July.

Dr Munro has wide international and local government experience: previously he was Associate Director at the International HIV AIDS Alliance and has extensive knowledge of working internationally on developmental issues, including interaction with governments and donors at senior level. He has also worked with UNAIDS, the World Bank, and as local government official at executive level in Cape Town and Durban.

Dr Munro takes over from Dr Carl Wright, who helped found CLGF in 1995 and who will remain ex officio CLGF Board member as Secretary-General Emeritus.

CLGF welcomes new chair



CLGF is pleased to welcome Rev Mpho Moruakgomo, President, Botswana Association of Local Authorities as its new Chairperson who takes over from Mayor Lawrence Yule in July. Rev Mpho has

been CLGF's Board member for over five years and Councillor for Kgatlen District, Botswana since 2004 including chairing the council between 2006-2009.

Publications

Commonwealth e-journal of local governance

The latest issue of the CJLG includes papers on supporting local governance and LED based on experiences from Swaziland, urban agriculture in Botswana, women's leadership in local government in the Caribbean as well as a paper on local government administration in Nigeria. Check out clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/clgf-publications/e-journal to find out more.

COMMENT

by Carl Wright, Secretary-General



Local democracy will prevail

This is my last Comment as CLGF Secretary-General and I write in South Africa, following a highly successful CLGF regional conference. Being in Southern Africa is very symbolic as it was here - in Lusaka, Harare and Johannesburg, where CLGF was first set up and active some 20 years ago.



My years as Secretary-General have been personally and professionally greatly rewarding and have seen many highlights and successes which are documented in CLGF's 20th Anniversary publication, issued last year. Among the achievements I want to single out are establishing CLGF as a leading Commonwealth organisation with quasi-governmental status; entrenching our unique local/central government membership structure; agreeing the *Aberdeen Principles on local democracy and good governance* and promoting their application; developing highly results-focussed and regionally-based programmes to strengthen local government capacity; and extending our work on sharing good practice, including through the biennial CLGF conferences held since 2000. More recently, I am proud of the role which CLGF, alongside other partners, has played in helping to shape the *2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development* and am excited about CLGF's cities network set up in 2015.

These successes would not have been possible without the strong personal and political support of our many Board members and the dedication of our highly professional, hard-working staff, who only number some 20 in total. I am also appreciative of the trust placed in the work of CLGF by key partners such as DFID, the EU and UNDP and our growing cooperation with corporate partners like Microsoft. Of course while CLGF has been able, in the words of a 2012 DFID evaluation, to 'punch above its weight', our membership from mostly poorer developing countries and our, until recently, limited access to external resources, has brought constraints to the scope of our work.

The past 20 years have been a turbulent period with the post-cold-war emergence of local democracy and decentralisation as growing trends throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Indeed it was in response to these that CLGF was actually established in 1995. It has also seen turmoil in the Middle East and elsewhere, 9/11 in New York, 7/7 in London and a growing wave of terrorist attacks including in many Commonwealth cities such as Abuja, Nairobi and Mumbai. There have further been waves of recentralisation by governments, including attacks on the right to local democracy and there is the still continuing economic fallout from the 2008-09 global recession.

The future for local government and CLGF is a good one, but we must constantly be on guard against moves to undermine local democracy and the status of local government, including of CLGF itself. Nor can we insulate ourselves from global trends and shocks. The recent UK decision to 'Brexit' from the EU will severely hurt the communities and people we serve, not only in the UK and Europe, but in many poorer Commonwealth countries. I am deeply concerned about the dark political forces which the UK EU referendum has thrown up, involving overtly racist attacks against immigrants, a political assassination and rampant populism, ugly trends paralleled by the rise of extremist forces elsewhere in Europe, the USA and globally. I fear that these destructive forces could potentially threaten global peace and return us to an ugly, xenophobic nationalism: everything I have spent my entire life fighting and striving against.

However, I remain by nature an optimist. I believe that through grass roots empowerment, local democracy and good governance, men and women of good faith will prevail. I have been highly fortunate to have met and engaged with many dedicated, unselfish individuals and public servants, particularly in Africa and developing countries, where the challenges are so great. Working with them for the common good has been an inspiration for me and CLGF and democratic local government will surely remain powerful vehicles to support their dreams and their aspirations.



Queen launches CLGF's new home



CLGF is to be part of a new Commonwealth Hub which was launched by HM the Queen on 9 June in London. It will bring together Commonwealth organisations - initially CLGF, the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Commonwealth Games Federation - in the same location to create a new collaborative, dynamic and innovative way of working.

The Queen officially launched the hub during a visit to Marlborough House ahead of her official 90th birthday celebrations attended by representatives from 53 Commonwealth countries.

CLGF has been advocating closer cooperation between itself and other Commonwealth organisations, especially the Commonwealth Secretariat and the associated Commonwealth organisations who presented their ideas on this to the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta.

CLGF Chairperson Mayor Lawrence Yule said, "CLGF, representing democratic local government throughout the Commonwealth, is fully committed to the success of the new hub and helping to bring about a more effective, coordinated and results-focused Commonwealth".

CLGF's incoming chair and President, Botswana Association of Local Authorities, Rev Mpho Moruakgomo said, "The 2015 CLGF conference, hosted by Botswana, emphasised the importance of local government in implementing the SDGs, not only in Africa but throughout the Commonwealth and elsewhere.

To achieve this, there needs to be a concerted and joined-up approach between all Commonwealth organisations. This was underlined at the 2015 CHOGM which 'underscored the need for a greater level of collaboration among Accredited Commonwealth Organisations, particularly Commonwealth intergovernmental and Associated organisations.'

"The new Commonwealth hub will greatly facilitate this collaboration and I and CLGF look forward to working with Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland and other partners, to take forward the Malta mandate to realise the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development as well as to promote core Commonwealth values, particularly on local democracy and good governance".

Added value

CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright, added:

"The Commonwealth hub, based at Commonwealth House, is an exciting development that will help us better coordinate our work with other Commonwealth organisations and provide added value to our members and citizens of the Commonwealth to help deliver development, local government, good governance and a better quality of life for the 2.3 billion citizens we and our members serve".

The hub will help to deliver Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland's vision to work more closely with all Commonwealth organisations to honour the values of the Commonwealth Charter and the commitments on health, education, climate change, good governance, equality and the rule of law in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and COP 21, also known as the 2015 Paris Climate Conference.

CLGF local government members who attended the launch were introduced to HM the Queen.

CLGF achieves objectives at CHOGM

CLGF achieved two of its main objectives in attending the 2015 CHOGM which took place in Malta at the end of November 2015.

CLGF had asked Heads of Government to endorse the role of local government and the outcomes of the Commonwealth Local Government Conference 2015, and CLGF has been calling for heads of government to recognise the distinct governmental nature of the Associated Organisations (AOs) and to have even closer cooperation with the Commonwealth Secretariat and other appropriate Commonwealth IGOs.

Reference to both of these was included in the CHOGM final communique:

Heads of Government "expressed their appreciation to parliamentarians, local government representatives, senior officials, civil society and others for sharing good practice and mobilising support for common goals including the Commonwealth Local Government Conference in 2015 in Botswana".

They also welcomed the support of the various Commonwealth organisations, including Associated Organisations such as CLGF, recognising their "valuable role in promoting Commonwealth values and principles, providing innovative thinking, advocacy and practical support for Commonwealth citizens, and raising the profile and impact of the Commonwealth as a whole". They called for greater collaboration and coordination between the Commonwealth intergovernmental organisations and AOs including CLGF.

The CLGF CHOGM delegation comprised Chairperson Mayor Lawrence Yule, Board Member Dr Marc Sant, Secretary-General Carl Wright and Deputy Secretary-General Lucy Slack. The team took part in a number of CHOGM events and pre-events, including the opening ceremony, the Commonwealth Business Forum, the Commonwealth People's Forum, Commonwealth Youth Forum and Women's Forum, and the Commonwealth Roundtable.

CLGF welcomes Commonwealth's new Secretary-General



CLGF welcomes Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC as the new Secretary-General for the Commonwealth. Speaking on the eve of becoming Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Rt Hon

Scotland said, "As a Commonwealth, each country has something unique and special to give each of the others."

On 28-29 June, CLGF held a regional event in Johannesburg, South Africa, to disseminate the outcomes of its regional programme on *Supporting local governance and local economic development in Southern Africa* and explore further the role of local government in delivering the SDGs. The conference looked at the practical ways in which local government is able to be more developmental, particularly using LED as a mechanism for delivering development.

Poverty, underdevelopment and inequality remain big challenges for the African continent. Local economic development (LED) has developed as a multi-sector, multi-agency approach to delivering development at the local level, and can help support the achievement of national economic and development objectives.

CLGF's programme work in Southern Africa has focused on using LED to drive development through a number of pilot initiatives in 15 authorities in four countries: Botswana, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia. The results show that LED does strengthen local development and offers a comprehensive framework for integrating and localising the SDGs. Local and regional governments play a crucial catalytic role as initiators and drivers of effective LED fostering participation, job creation, economic empowerment of women, youth and vulnerable groups. LED can also contribute to building social trust and cohesion, making societies more stable and resilient to complex and widespread risks.

Local economic development (LED) is an approach that allows local government to leverage its power to bring together relevant stakeholders to support local development. It is also an important mechanism for local governments to contribute directly towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Although LED is not often a formal statutory requirement of local government, many of the roles and functions of local government and its role as

Driving LED for more stable and resilient communities



community leader mean that local government is best positioned to develop and integrate strategies for LED.

The CLGF Southern African four-year programme on *Supporting local governance and local economic development in Southern Africa* was supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). With further support from the European Union and as part of CLGF's Framework Partnership Agreement, CLGF Southern Africa is building on the lessons of the project and working in the region to look at localising the SDGs in specific local authorities and the role of LED as part of that strategic process.

The DFID supported project has helped councils become familiar with LED, develop economic assessments of their areas, and bring together local stakeholders to develop and implement LED strategies for improving local capacity, skills and investment. The recent conference was an opportunity for participating councils to share their

experiences and to guide CLGF's ongoing programmes in the region.

- Chipata Municipality, Zambia focused on promoting local investment through its LED pilot project. As a result, investments have increased from some 130 companies in 2014 to more than 1700 by May 2016; council revenues, including business fees have more than doubled and some 1000 local small traders have benefited from land to set up permanent shops as a result of an initiative to boost LED through promoting investment.
- In Mbabane, Swaziland, more than 1000 people from low income communities or informal settlements have been trained in sustainable environment management and income generation, and 500 climate smart gardens were established. Reusing waste materials has led to the production of compost for the gardens and for sale, and other commercial products have been produced using reusable waste materials.

more communities



The project has brought food security, improved socio-economic status and better environmental management for low income communities.

- In Francistown, Botswana, following a local economic assessment to understand how the local economy functions and intensive training to familiarise staff and councillors on the LED approach, an LED strategy has been developed which among other things proposes: a tourism centre to stimulate the economy; reviewing city by-laws and service standards to promote efficiency; encouraging more community projects especially in agriculture and recycling; and upgrading infrastructure and setting up a one-stop shop to facilitate investment in the city.

All the projects have found the LED approach to be beneficial. According to Kabwe Municipal Council, Zambia:

“LED has been an eye-opener to the local

“ Achieving economic growth is a serious challenge in itself. Ensuring the benefits of growth spread widely such that development becomes inclusive and impacts the quality of life of all citizens of Kaoma is even more challenging. ”

Kaoma District Council, Zambia

authority, especially in the manner on which it carries out its municipal mandate to its residents. LED has helped the local authority in improving the involvement of its residents and partnering with key stakeholders in achieving a holistic type of development for Kabwe. So far investors and donors have come through to express interest in improving the economic, social and physical development in the city.”

The projects have also found that the backing and support of the relevant ministries and local government associations are invaluable in being able to develop local strategies:

“The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development played a critical role in the success of the project through technical support, provision of guidelines and the trainings. BALA also played a critical role throughout by facilitating the Business Enabling Environment survey, capacity building, and provision of technical support,” said Sowa Town Council, Botswana.

Speaking at the dissemination conference in Johannesburg, CLGF incoming chairperson Rev Mpho Moruakomo said:

“Local economic development – already an important function for local government in the region - will be a key approach to enable us at the local level to play a strong role in achieving the SDGs.”

The conference was attended by seven ministers responsible for local government from across the region, all of whom gave their strong endorsement to the principle of localising the SDGs and empowering local government to contribute to their achievement, including through effective LED.

A report of the conference, and the background discussion paper will be available on the CLGF website.

CLGF opens office in the Caribbean

CLGF has opened a new regional office in the Caribbean to boost support for local government in the region. CLGF has launched a new EU-funded regional programme in the Caribbean that will focus on the role of local government in implementing the SDGs and strengthening national policy for their localisation. A launch of the new office took place alongside CLGF’s 2016 Caribbean regional meeting on 21-23 March in Port of Spain, hosted in collaboration with CALGA, the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government and Trinidad and Tobago Association of Local Government Authorities (TTALGA).

The recommendations from the two-day regional meeting highlighted the key role of local government in ensuring people-centred sustainable development and welcomed the SDGs as a framework for delivering global and national priorities at the local level.

CLGF’s new office in the Caribbean, led by Programme Officer Sandra Singh, is working towards building a strong local government network including with CALGA, other national LGAs, ministries of local government and regional associations to share experience and challenges, foster exchange on localising the SDGs and other key issues of importance at local, national and regional level.

Dealing with the effects of climate change in Tuvalu

CLGF Pacific is partnering with UNCDF for finance for dealing with the effects of climate change in Tuvalu. LoCAL is the UNCDF facility for investment in local level climate resilience. The facility channels global adaptation finance to local governments who are on the frontline of dealing with the effects of climate change and enables them to invest in building local resilience.

Tuvalu is the first country in the Pacific where the LoCAL mechanism will be designed. Thanks to CLGF’s extensive networks and knowledge of the local government in Tuvalu, CLGF Pacific was asked by UNCDF to partner in the pilot phase of the LoCAL program in Tuvalu.

The LoCAL Facility method is innovative: it connects to existing national intergovernmental fiscal transfer systems and supplements capital grants to local governments with performance-based climate adaptation funding. LoCAL thus provides a fast and effective means to channel adaptation finance to where it is most needed, while at the same time ensuring ownership, accountability and results.

Following a scoping mission to Tuvalu carried out by both partners in late 2015, the results are currently being developed for implementation in Tuvalu.

Towards a New Urban Agenda and Habitat III

In October 2016, the international community will adopt a New Urban Agenda (NUA) at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, which will make recommendations to guide urban development policy across the world for the coming decades. CLGF has joined forces with other local government bodies to call for a specific status for local and sub-national bodies to be represented at the table in the Habitat III discussions.

CLGF, as part of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, is calling on UN member states to give local authorities special status to play their full role as active partners both at Habitat III and the overall UN system.

CLGF Vice-chair Cllr Philip McPhee and Secretary-General Carl Wright both addressed the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Government for the NUA in New York on 15 May and were part of the presentations to the Habitat III informal hearings with local authorities at the UN on 16-17 May. This was the first time there has been reserved sessions exclusively for local authorities, a significant step for CLGF and its partners that will help establish a clear precedent in recognising local government as a distinct stakeholder at the UN.

According to CLGF Vice-chair Cllr McPhee for the NUA and the SDGs to be successfully implemented, they need to be fully localised and local and regional governments, and their associations, need to have the capacity to be engaged with implementation. Cllr McPhee said, "It is gratifying that key



development partners such as EU and DFID are already providing practical support in this area to local government, for example through CLGF, which has recently launched a regional programme in the Caribbean, based in Trinidad, to help its members engage with SDG implementation."

While addressing the hearings, CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright said: "It's important that we focus on the vital linkage between the implementation of the NUA and the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. What Quito and what we as local and regional governments must demonstrate, is that the NUA is complimentary to the 2030 Agenda and will actively assist and support SDG implementation. The targets of the 2030 Agenda cannot be met properly unless they incorporate the urban dimension, and the co-option of local and regional governments in SDG implementation in partnership with central government will heighten the prospect of success," he said.

CLGF will be attending Habitat III meetings as part of the Global Taskforce.

New partnership with Microsoft

CLGF has signed a MOU with Microsoft for 2016-20, and agreed a programme of work for 2016-17, the first such longer term corporate partnership with a private sector partner. Microsoft has collaborated with CLGF for more than a decade by supporting and participating in CLGF's biennial conferences, but this is the first time that both parties have come together to take forward joint activities in the context of localising the SDGs, monitoring their implementation and supporting cities, local authorities, LGAs and

ministries of local government to better use ICT to enhance democratic accountability. The joint work programme for 2016-17 will be announced during the 2016 CSCN meeting in London. Microsoft's Managing Director, International Organisations – Worldwide Public Sector David Burrows, will be presenting on the growing relevance of ICT in governance and service delivery and ways in which cities are using ICT to address local challenges at a session on smart cities at the CSCN meeting on 13 July.

Boost for sustainable cities #CSCN



With more than 50% of the world's population now living in urban areas, local and regional

governments are on the front line of dealing with the daily challenges of urban and territorial development. Through the Global Task Force of Regional and Local Governments (GTF), CLGF and its partners have been working together to share knowledge, experience and perspectives and draw up joint recommendations for the Habitat III process. CLGF is also taking a lead on bringing together sustainable cities through its newly created Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network (CSCN), which will meet in London in July to share good practice and look at future action and input into Habitat III.

Whilst the period 2015 to 2030 presents new challenges that cities need to confront, the opportunities that will become available have never been more abundant. Cities are seen as key players in delivering the 2030 Agenda and facilitating implementation of the SDGs at the local level.

CLGF's newly established Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network (CSCN) is seen as a key vehicle for advancing the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and localising SDGs. Following the successful CSCN meeting in Singapore in 2015, the 2016 CSCN meeting scheduled to take place in London on 12-13 July will be supported by Microsoft and will address key issues such as making cities inclusive, resilient and safe; cities as engines of economic growth and centres of finance and innovation; growing importance of ICT in governance and service delivery as well as holistic planning.

CLGF plans to integrate relevant action points agreed at the July meeting into its own on-going advocacy, knowledge-sharing and technical assistance programmes being developed with a range of partner organisations for the benefit of its city members. CLGF through its membership of the GTF will seek to ensure that relevant recommendations are brought to the attention of Habitat III, which is being tasked with agreeing the NUA.

Those attending include mayors and ministers from across the Commonwealth, Commonwealth and international organisations and partners with an interest in cities and urban issues including the Prince of Wales International Sustainability Unit and Foundation for Building Community.

The opening session will take place on 12 July, followed by a reception at which HRH the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles will address those attending the event.

CLGF is pleased to have London represented through the Greater London Authority under Mayor Sadiq Khan as its newest city member.

Board members

Africa

East

Cllr Innocent Uwimana, Chairperson, Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities

Hon Tom Butime, Minister of Local Government, Uganda

Southern

Rev Mpho MBW Moruakgomo, President, Botswana Association of Local Authorities, Botswana (*Chairperson*)*

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

Hon Steven Kamyongo MP, Minister for Local Government, Housing, Early Education and Environmental Protection, Zambia

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

West

Hon Isaac Ashai Odamtten, 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, Belize

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

Cllr Michael Thompson, Chair, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada

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

Hon Desmond McKenzie 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 Syed Ali Zahir Moulana, President, Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, Sri Lanka *

Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan, Minister of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government, Malaysia

Pacific

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

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

Hon Atarake Nataara MP, Minister of Internal Affairs and Social Development, Kiribati

Europe

Cllr Nick Small, Local Government Association of England and Wales

Dr Marc Sant, President, Local Councils Association, Malta (*alternate*)

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 MP, Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands, Mauritius

Hon Slumber Tsogwane, Minister of Local Government, Botswana

Hon Peseta Sam Lotu-liga, 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 *

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

Dr Greg Munro, Secretary-General *

Dr Carl Wright, Secretary-General Emeritus

* Denotes members of the Executive Committee
Board list as of 1 August 2016

Partnership promotes women entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka

CLGF in partnership with the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities and the Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils has helped set up a local market for women entrepreneurs in four Sri Lankan councils. One such local market is now up and running in Lankapura pradeshiya sabha in the north central province of Sri Lanka. CLGF has been running training programmes in Lankapura for women entrepreneurs to help develop their skills in cash, stock and restaurant management in addition to training them in running the market.

Supporting elected women representatives in India

As part of the DFID-funded South Asia Programme, CLGF is working together with Maharashtra's Elected Women Representatives' Association (Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan) and the Resource and Support Centre for Development run by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to help empower women both as citizens and local government representatives and increasing the association's capacity to empower and support women, create knowledge management platforms for advocacy and dissemination and facilitate better data collection.

Local authorities in Zimbabwe to improve services

CLGF has launched a capacity needs assessment report for the 15 local authorities that are part of the *Strengthening capacity of local governance and service delivery in Zimbabwe* project which runs from 2015-2017 and is supported by the European Union.

The plan will help strengthen good local governance and service delivery in Zimbabwe, and provide a framework for the capacity development plans to be developed and supported by the project. It outlines some of the key service delivery challenges, finance mobilisation issues, skills and human resource needs, such as ICT and financial management systems, and training and performance assessment. The project will now start implementing this plan.



events 2016

July

- 11-12 **CLGF Board and Executive Committee meetings**
Local Government House, LGA, London
- 12-13 **2016 Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network Meeting**
Marlborough House, London
- 11-20 **UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**
New York

August

- 3-4 **CLGF South Asia Regional Meeting**
Jabalpur, India

October

- 12-15 **UCLG World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders**
Bogotá, Colombia
- 17-20 **Habitat III Conference and the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments**
Quito, Ecuador

First ever local government institute in Rwanda

The Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) have teamed up to develop Rwanda's first ever local government institute, in partnership with the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA).

The Institute, formally launching in July, will bring together key stakeholders from across Rwanda and the UK to provide practical training and capacity building support for officers and elected representatives. The training will run alongside a master's level programme which RALGA is developing with the University of Rwanda, and will contribute to efforts in Rwanda to professionalise local government and help councils retain and develop their staff and councillors.

South Asia Research Colloquium

Academics from India, Bangladesh and the UK came together for the first South Asian Research Colloquium at the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta on 28-29 January. The event was based on the theme *Localising global values: what the SDGs mean for local governments in South Asia* and facilitated presentation of papers and discussion on the implementation of SDGs in the region.

The colloquium recommendations included ways in which CLGF can better integrate its academic and research members into its programme and research and will feed into the CLGF's biennial Research Colloquium which will be held alongside the 2017 Commonwealth Local Government Conference.

SAVE THIS DATE
21-24 NOVEMBER 2017
www.clgf2017.org



2017

Commonwealth Local Government Conference

Fit for the future:
resources and capacity for effective local government

VALLETTA MALTA
21-24 NOVEMBER 2017

One world. And it's local



CLGF's 2017 Conference in Malta

CLGF's next biennial conference, the 2017 Commonwealth Local Government Conference will take place in Valletta, Malta from 21-24 November 2017 on the theme *Fit for the future: resources and capacity for effective local government*. The announcement was made at the conference launch in Valletta on 4 May with Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government Hon Owen Bonnici, LCA President Dr Marc Sant, Parliamentary Secretary for Local Government Stefan Buontempo, and CLGF Secretary-General Carl Wright. There was also a special message of support from Prime Minister Hon Dr Joseph Muscat, who is also current Chairperson-in-Office of the Commonwealth. Outcomes of the conference will be used by CLGF members in their own policy making and service planning and be presented to Commonwealth Heads of Government at their next meeting in the UK in 2018 for endorsement.

CHECK OUT CLGF'S NEW LOOK WEBSITE

CLGF's website has just got a facelift with responsive design optimised to desktops as well as mobile devices and tablets.

The new look website offers a streamlined navigation system which not only gives a flavour of CLGF's advocacy as well regional presence but also includes news items across the Commonwealth and resources of interest to local government members and partners. Check out clgf.org.uk to have a look and tweet your feedback using @clgf_news.



Check out CLGF's new knowledge hub



CLGF's new Knowledge Hub on the website contains summaries of and links to documents from CLGF, its members and partners to enable members and visitors to search for content on a wide range of local government topics including local democracy, local government finance, service delivery, women, small states and global development agenda.

For more information please visit:
clgf.org.uk/resource-centre/knowledge-hub

