

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY TELECONFERENCE CALL

3 March 2010, 9 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (Montreal Time)

MINUTES

Participants: Oliver Hillel, Chantal Robichaud, Chikara Hombo, Toshitaka Takagi, Tsuyoshi Ito, Ryo Kohsaka, Lena Chan, Peter Werner, Eric Blencowe, Karin Buhren, Kobie Brand, Andre Mader, Marie Biermann, Lara Lacerda Santos Rodrigues, Eduardo P. Guimaraes, Jose Antonio Andreguetto, Christine Alfsen-Norodom, Laura Dickinson, Uwe Friedel, Elisa Calcaterra, Milena Berrocal, Susanne Nolden, Bonnie James.

I. Opening – (9:00)

II. World Urban Forum 5

Updates on the event: status of participants, programme, etc. (Karin Buhren)

The Fifth World Urban Forum (WUF) will take place 22-26 March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro. The forum is a platform for cities and their partners to discuss urban issues and the overall theme is *The Right to the City-Bridging the Urban Divide* : <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=584>

Ms Buhren presented an update on the WUF:

- Over 15000 participants from a range of institutions (public, private, NGOs, academia, local, national, etc) have pre-registered.
- There will be six dialogues including one on “Sustainable urbanisation: Cities in a Changing Climate” which will take place on Thursday 25 March, and will include the main dialogue session in the morning followed by two sessions on 1) resilience and adaptation ‘reducing vulnerability to Climate Change’ and 2) mitigation ‘promoting inclusive and environmentally sustainable cities’. The sessions are opportunities to integrate biodiversity issues.
- UN-HABITAT is organising a “Climate Change Arena” as part of the Exhibition.
- Over 20 other events related to climate change and urban environment will be organized.
- The main sponsors of the events are Brazil as a host country and UN-HABITAT’s partners who will be present in Rio.

Ms Alfsen mentioned the importance, to position cities and local authorities as actual “engines of the Green Economy” esp. keeping in mind the objectives of Rio+20 to take place in 2012.

UNESCO will be at the WUF and would like to take this opportunity to further discuss UNESCO’s contribution to the various agenda items.

LAB Advisory Committee meeting and ICLEI networking event (Kobie Brand, Marie Biermann & OH)

The 2 hours LAB/AC meeting will be a high level event and an occasion for ICLEI and IUCN to present their programmes. Also, the 2 hours networking event will include topics such as the Second Curitiba Meeting, the roadmap to Aichi-Nagoya, and City Biodiversity Summit 2010. Additionally, ICLEI is inviting cities to present case studies. Participants to the Global Partnership are welcome to attend.

Below is a summary of ICLEI and ICLEI/LAB activities at the WUF:

- Inaugural Meeting of the LAB Advisory Committee. Wednesday 24 March 2010, from 12h00 - 13h30 in room W3-19 at the WUF main venue (on invitation only)
- LAB “Networking Event” as part of the WUF programme, entitled ‘Urban Biodiversity: Local Solutions to Global Challenges’ that will also take place on Wednesday, 24 March 2010, 14:00 - 16:00 in room W2-16 at the WUF main venue
- Exhibition stand shared with SCBD, UNESCO, IUCN

Exhibition space for the Global Partnership and materials (banners, bookmarks and newsletter) (OH)

Mr Hillel informed the participants that the Global Partnership will have its own exhibit space as part of the Climate Change Arena, from which the bookmarks on the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 and SCBD newsletters on cities and biodiversity will be distributed, and that everyone is welcome to use the kiosk as a meeting place and to promote their respective activities.

III. Updates

1. The Singapore Index on Cities’ Biodiversity (Lena Chan)

Updates on the development of the CBI

12 cities are currently at different stages of the testing of the CBI: Curitiba tested the index (and scored 80), and so did Singapore. Other cities have begun or shown interest in testing the index: Nagoya, Montreal, Edmonton, Joondalup, King’s County, Paris, Montpellier, London, Brussels, and Frankfurt. The European Capital of Biodiversity project has also integrated elements of the index in its project.

The Index will be part of the plan of action on cities, local authorities and biodiversity. It is currently being fine-tuned and will be finalized before COP10.

Mr Ito added that City of Nagoya is now entering CBI data in cooperation with related divisions and hoping to finish it by the end of March. He also informed that URBIO2010 has prepared to hold a CBI workshop in May to promote the use of CBI as a self-monitoring tool and the development of biodiversity index which reflects the real circumstances of cities. Dr. Lena Chan will attend the workshop.

The Second Expert Workshop on the Singapore Index, World Cities Summit, etc

The Second Expert Workshop will take place from 1 to 3 July 2010. It will follow the World City Summit which is planned for 28-30 June 2010. Invitees are cities that have been involved in the development and testing of the index, other cities who wish to contribute, and the index technical task force.

2. City Biodiversity Summit 2010 (Tsuyoshi Ito)

Based on comments and opinions Aichi-Nagoya received, the first announcement on the City Biodiversity Summit 2010 will be finalized in March. After that, Aichi-Nagoya will send out the first announcement to the cities selected with the cooperation of ICLEI and SCBD as well as other partners. Recipients will also include sister cities of Nagoya City and Aichi Prefecture. Aichi-Nagoya has been in close cooperation with ICLEI, and will define keynote speakers, facilitators, parallel session speakers. On March 19, the Aichi-Nagoya will hold the third Project Examination Meeting on the city summit which consists of experts from related organizations. At the meeting, program and parallel session topics of the City Biodiversity Summit will be discussed in consideration of the results of the Second Curitiba meeting.

Questions related to the City Biodiversity Summit 2010

Ms Nolden asked Aichi/Nagoya about the possible contribution of the Steering Committee of Cities in the organization and the programme of the City Biodiversity Summit 2010. Aichi-Nagoya is now developing the summit structure and will consider how to set appropriate roles for the Steering Committee mayors in it.

-Ms Alfsen-Norodom asked Aichi/Nagoya:

- 1) in what way partners can further contribute to the preparation of the Summit (endorsement, sponsorship, etc)
- 2) if URBIS can have a slot in the programme
- 3) if a side-event can be organized in order to reach out to UNESCO's partners

-Ms Buhren would also like to get more information on the possibility of proposing a panel as well as organizing an event at the margins of the Summit.

3. URBIS (Christine Alfsen-Norodom and Laura Dickinson)

URBIS Designation Process

- A concept note on the URBIS designation process will be shared with the Global partnership and will be posted on the CBD web site as a "work in progress".
- Montreal, New York, New Orleans, Chicago, Stockholm, Cape Town, and Istanbul and Shanghai are already taking part in the process.
- In the inception phase, the process may be managed as part of the Global Partnership and will be available in the public domain.
- UNESCO will be officially presenting the prototype of the designation process in Nagoya.

IV. The Global Partnership

The CBD Plan of Action on Cities, Local Authorities and Biodiversity (OH, Eric Blencowe and all)

Comments to the draft plan of action will be consolidated before 18 March -thanks to those who contributed. The procedure of submission to COP10 will then be negotiated with Brazil and other interested Parties (including South Africa).

- Response of the EU on the draft plan (Mr Blencowe)

The draft was circulated within the EU and informal consultations have taken place notably:

- on the idea of making the plan more challenging for cities that are already engaged at a level beyond that proposed by the plan
- on clarity
- on national vs local efforts
- on the CBI : they would prefer to refer to the CBI as one of the implementation tools

Mr Blencowe will send further comments by Monday.

- Ms Alfsen-Norodom and Mr Blencowe will explore ways to share the development of the plan of action with UNESCO's national delegations.
- Mr Ito added that Aichi-Nagoya made some comments on the Plan of Action, and its related decision in cooperation with the government of Japan

The 2010 CBD Newsletter (Andre Mader, all)

The newsletter will be distributed in Rio –thanks to those who contributed. Please send in your last comments (particularly on the Mayors'quotes) as soon as possible.

The twin biodiversity guidebook by ICLEI/LAB and SCBD (Andre Mader & OH)

ICLEI guidebook: Mr Mader informed the participants that the editor is currently finalizing the text and design. The final draft will then be sent to LAB steering committee and the product should be finalized by mid-June.

SCBD/UN-HABITAT guidebook: the terms of reference of the expert are being finalized.

V. Varia

Green Week

Ms Brand informed the participants of the fact that ICLEI and IUCN will be involved and hold a stand at the European Green Week (from 1 to 4 June 2010 in Brussels, on the theme of biodiversity) and suggested that Mr Blencowe uses this platform to contact and consult European cities.

September 2010, Biodiversity Conference under the Belgian EU Presidency

Ms Calcaterra will be sending information and invitation to the Global Partnership to participate in the meeting, which will represent an opportunity for European cities and national representatives to meet and discuss biodiversity at the local level.

URBIO

The organizing committee has received over 360 requests for papers. Over 150 participants from Japan and 100 overseas participants will take part.

Preparatory meeting of the Global Partnership

Further information will be made available by Aichi/Nagoya.

Alta Floresta

Mr. Guimaraes informed the participants that the City of Curitiba will be visiting Alta Floresta and will be present at the WUF. Mr Hillel will transmit information on the Portal of the Amazon to Curitiba. Ms Brand will cooperate with Curitiba in order to examine options to mobilize a consortium of 16 Amazon municipalities (under the leadership of Alta Floresta, and supported by ICLEI's regional office in Sao Paulo) towards joint actions to minimize deforestation in the Amazon. .

VI. Closing of the teleconference (10:15 am)