



## THE HUB FOR INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

UNPD Liaison Office in Geneva

### MISSION

- ***Territorial communities - actors of the global partnership for development, with the support of the United Nations, the Governments, the NGOs and the private sector***

The United Nations recognises the increasingly important role of territorial communities in the field of development. They represent an essential level for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Because of their responsibilities and expertise, and their accountability in planning and developing policies for their own territories, territorial communities represent an important level between “the global” and “the local”.

- ***Territorial communities, essential interlocutors of the Hub for Innovative Partnerships***

In September 2005, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established, within its liaison office in Geneva, the Hub for Innovative Partnerships, aiming at recognising the role of territorial communities and supporting them in facing development challenges.

The objectives of the Hub are articulated around one main axis: to support national governments in their ongoing decentralisation processes; by assisting territorial communities in identifying and implementing their own development policies and through the establishment of innovative partnerships with all stakeholders: intergovernmental organisations, governments, communities, civil society, universities and the private sector.

A Trust Fund, managed by the Hub, has been implemented for this purpose.

### ACTIVITIES

The Hub coordinates various programmes at the national level, in support to national policies, implemented by UNDP Country Offices.

#### ***1. The ART Programme: Articulating Territorial and Thematic Networks***

The global ART Programme promotes a cooperation modality that enables local, national and international actors, interested in supporting local development, to jointly identify and implement development initiatives in compliance with national policies.

To this end, UNDP promotes in countries that request its intervention:

- the establishment of a framework-programme at national level: as its name says, the framework-programme is an institutional and operational framework that facilitates the articulation between the cooperation activities implemented in a territory and the decentralization policies.

- a service to promote local development at the international level: the Hub mobilizes its network of local partners from the North and South around this modality of intervention, based on the principles of complementarity and articulation. The Hub facilitates the exchange of knowledge and innovations on the fields of development and local governance.

At present, this intervention modality is being implemented in 15 countries, allowing the effective cooperation between more than 800 partners (local, national, United Nations Agencies), who work together in order to align their respective activities with the countries' development processes.

## **2. The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty**

The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (known by its English acronym WACAP) is a network of cities launched in 1996 by UNDP. Its mission is to fight urban poverty through awareness actions, good practice's dissemination, promotion of city to city cooperation, fundraising and implementation of pilot social projects.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> Forum of the Alliance, which was held in Athens in March 2008, 300 cities adopted a set of concrete local goals in order to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. Within this context, the Alliance facilitated the gathering of local communities committed in working together in a certain number of priority fields, such as:

- Fighting HIV/AIDS: communities committed themselves to support the implementation at the local level, of all awareness actions and national HIV/AIDS programmes, in collaboration with United Nations' specialized agencies.
- Water and sanitation: various European governments have integrated legislative instruments that allow local communities to use part of their budgets to finance partnership's projects in the field of water. In order to prevent the fragmentation of these initiatives, different French, Italian and Spanish communities are establishing, with UNDP's support, a platform aiming at generating synergies and articulating their solidarity actions territories of common interest.

## **3. Territorial communities and climate change**

Different United Nations programmes and agencies have established a partnership with a number of local and regional government associations, in order to assess the modalities of integrated implementation of strategies and climate projects at the infra-state level, in developing countries. This initiative aims at promoting:

- The creation of methodology tools addressed to territorial authorities, in order to guide them in assessing their carbon footprint and their climate vulnerability, so that they can define their regional and local "Climate Action" plans
- The establishment of partnerships between all stakeholders, in order to carry out, at the local level, projects on climate change mitigation and adaptation

Moreover, the Hub supports the implementation of a network of gas and petroleum producing regions, willing to favour local development and the achievement of the MDGs.

## **4. Mobilisation of the private sector: a specific expertise at the service of development**

The private sector is a key actor of the global partnership for development. It has a specialized know-how in many of the mentioned fields (climate change, water, sanitation, etc.) which the Hub intends to mobilise by means of:

- Promoting new pro-poor commercial opportunities: the Hub supports UNDP's strategy with the private sector, in the field of advocacy, as well as from an operational point of view, through fundraising for the global programme *Growing Sustainable Business*
- Establishing partnerships with the Local Economic Development Agencies, in the framework of the ART Programme: through experience and expertise exchange, and financial support, the private sector favours the development of the local entrepreneurship network in a territory.

- Establishing partnerships between economic and local actors within the scope of the Clean Development Mechanism: aiming at strengthening the regions' capacities to implement their own policies on climate change attenuation and adaptation.

## **CONTACTS**

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