

# International Guidelines on Decentralization

## Seminar 9 June 2008

Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development  
- on the occasion of UN-Habitat/AGRED meeting in Oslo 10-11 June 2008

**Sunday 8 June** Arrival of participants. Registration desk and an informal gathering in Palmen, beside the Grand Hotel Lobby. Registration desk open from approximately 18.00, gathering at 19.00 – the time will be adjusted according to needs/ the confirmed arrival times for the guests.

**9 June** Registration desk in the lobby.

**08.30 – 09.30**

**09.30 – 10.15**

### Opening session

**Chair: Magnhild Meltveit Kleppa**, Minister

**Deputy chair: Inger Lindgren**, Director General, Department of Housing and Building, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

**Magnhild Meltveit Kleppa**, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Norway.

### Introductory speeches

- **Kumari Selja**, President of UN- Habitat Governing Council, Minister of State, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, India.
- **Lars Reutersward**, Director of Division of Shelter and Sustainable Human Settlement, UN-Habitat.
- **Halvdan Skard**, President of KS – The National Association of Local and Regional Authorities, Norway.

### Seminar

The aim of the seminar is to stimulate a dialogue between Norwegian researchers and representatives from municipalities and the international experts to give input to the following UN-Habitat/AGRED (Advisory groups of experts) meeting on 10 – 11 June.

**Deputy chair: Greta Billing**, AGRED member, Deputy Director General, Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development - Introduction to the Guidelines of decentralization and strengthening of local authorities.

### Panel I Mutual learning and exchange of skills and knowledge across borders

**10.20 – 13.00** *Presentations and discussion*

The aim of the panel is to emphasise how Norway and Norwegian municipalities can learn in the exchange of best practices, what do we “bring home”– and what do others learn from Norway?

**Moderator: Mohamed Halfani**, Head of Development Branch, UN-Habitat secretariat.



**Panelists**

- **Einar Braathen**, Senior researcher Norwegian Institute of Local Government and Regional Development (NIBR), - Strengths and weaknesses in the 'Norwegian/Nordic model' in a comparative perspective and the question of transferability.
- **Asgeir Rustad**, former Council Secretary in Zambia, - Working as a Council Secretary ('rådmann') in Africa: experiences and lessons learnt.
- **Harald Baldersheim**, Professor University of Oslo and **Lene Conradi**, Mayor, Municipality of Asker: - The Nordic Municipal Compass and the UN Global Compact Cities Programme, tools for benchmarks and networks between municipalities.

**11.30 – 11.50 Coffee break**

**11.50 – 13.00 Seminar continues**

**Pulane Nkosi**, Senior manager, Mbombela Local Municipality, South Africa and **Guttorm Grundt**, Environmental Affairs Coordinator, City of Oslo, Norway: Municipal international cooperation; good governance focused on sustainable development and environmental management-cooperation.

**13.00 – 14.30 Lunch – Palmen, Grand Hotel**

**Panel II Local democracy, service delivery and participation of women**

**14.30 – 15.30 Presentations and discussion**

The aim of the panel is to emphasize that strengthening of service delivery is basic to build the legitimacy of the representative democracy. The search for trust, legitimacy, financial resources, participation and links with civil society.

**Moderator:** UN-Habitat secretariat

**Panelists**

- **Inger-Marie Bakken**, Head of Division Verdal Municipality: - 'A show case for women' – a tool for strengthening the representation of women in local politics in Norway.
- **Sarah Lister**, UNDP Governance Centre Oslo: - Local democracy and service delivery in a fragile state – the case of UN Habitat in Afghanistan.
- **Liss Schanke**, Special Adviser, KS – Womens participation in India: bilateral cooperation project India/Norway

**15.30 – 15.50 Coffee**



### **Panel III The comparative perspective and the question of transferability**

#### **15.50 – 16.50** *Presentations and discussion*

The aim of the panel is to sum up the previous discussions and to look ahead: “*How to assist interested Governments to adapt the guidelines on decentralisation to their national contexts, where appropriate, and to develop tools and indicators further as part of its support, bearing in mind that the guidelines do not constitute a uniform or rigid blueprint to be applicable to all member States of the United Nations.*”  
Perspectives for North – South and South – South cooperation.

**Moderator: Lars Reutersward**, Director of Division of Shelter and Sustainable Human Settlement, UN Habitat

#### **Panelists**

- **Daniel Popescu**, Administrator, Centre of Expertise for local government reform, Council of Europe: - Experiences from the intergovernmental work, assistance programs in South East Europe and a Centre of Expertise.
- **John Loughlin**, Professor University of Cardiff, and **Om Prakash Mathur**, Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi: - Comments based on The Compendium of `Best practice`.

#### **16.50 – 17.00** **Closing of the seminar**

**Lars Reutersward**, Director of Division, UN-Habitat and  
**Inger Lindgren**, Director General, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

**17.15** **Departure from the hotel;** a 10 minutes walk to the Nobel Peace Center.

#### **17.30 – 18.30** **Visit to the Nobel Peace Center**

Photo-exhibition “The Places We Live” which presents experiences of slum-dwellers and challenges linked to the growth of the population in the large cities of the world.

#### **20.00** **Dinner**

Grand Hotel, at the invitation of Magnhild Meltveit Kleppa, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Norway.

