



# French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development



# Rise to the challenges of urbanization through democratic governance

The explosion of urban growth over the coming decades is one of the major challenges that humanity will have to face. Between now and 2030, 95% of this rapid growth will take place in developing countries. Southern cities will be home to four billion inhabitants – almost 80% of the world's city-dwellers. Currently, one billion men and women live in unofficial districts or slums. This figure will have doubled by 2030.

While cities crystallize the challenges of development, they also offer solutions. They provide a framework that – through an integrated territorial approach – is conducive to resolving global issues that have become too complex to be handled at any single level by any single player.

France has therefore defined democratic urban governance as a strategic priority to support a sustainable and inclusive development of cities, where access to basic services and jobs helps combat poverty and reduce inequalities.

Democratic urban governance consists in adopting methods of decision-making and public action using a partnership-based approach involving local governments, which have an important role to play as a catalyst for local development.

The balanced participation of all of a region's players – its inhabitants first and foremost, but also the State, local authorities, the private sector and civil society – will enable policies that can effectively meet the needs of the majority to be defined and applied.

Favelas of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)



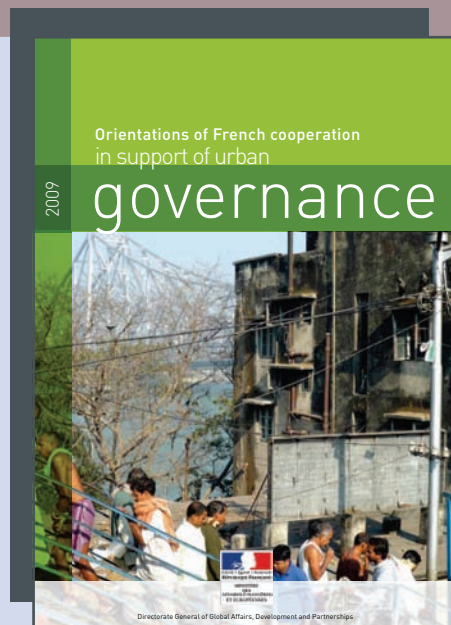
# An Alliance uniting French urban cooperation players

The French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development (Partenariat français pour la ville et les territoires – PFVT) was created in July 2009. It unites all French players involved in urban cooperation: the State and its public institutions; territorial authorities, including the elected officials and their associations; professionals; businesses and consultancies; technical, scientific and training organizations; NGOs and a variety of qualified individuals.

It is a platform that groups together a multitude of French experts in the realm of cities and territorial development, currently one of the key focal points of French international action.

## Financing sustainable urban development

Between 1997 and 2009, the French Development Agency allocated €5 billion to finance urban development. In the realm of economic development, it supports facility building in the industrial zone of Bethlehem (infrastructure, business incubator, water pretreatment plant and recycling center – subsidy of €10 million). It also supports the Kisumu (Kenya) urban project (support to the municipality, waste management, slum rehabilitation, commercial equipment, collective facilities and networks – loan of €40 million to the Kenyan government).



# The goals of the French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development

The French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development is committed to developing more cohesive, just cities by:

- Adopting a global approach to urban territories, incorporating strategic planning into initiatives to improve economic development, social inclusion, functional diversity and environmental protection;
- Supporting urban governance processes;
- Involving private partners in urban governance processes.

The French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development aims at:

- Building a multi-player forum for exchange, information and capitalization of experiences involving cities and urban cooperation. Increasing exchange between professionals and the scientific community;

## “Urban governance matters”

This work provides a summary of the studies conducted in 2007-2008 by a network of French and foreign researchers in continuation of the Urban Development Research Program (UDRP), led by GEMDEV between 2000 and 2005.

Urban districts of Addis-Abeba  
(Ethiopia)



- Increasing the consistency of interventions by French players to improve the effectiveness of aid, in compliance with the European Charter on development cooperation in support of local governance;
- Building a shared portal of French urban cooperation expertise. The PFVT aims to provide partners with solutions that are coordinated and integrated with requests previously handled on a sectoral basis, to make its members' actions more dynamic in terms of international cooperation;
- Promoting common positions to more actively participate in the international debate and help put urban issues on the international agenda.

### **Contributions by PFVT members to the international debate on cities**

- France is a member of “Cities Alliance”, an organization dedicated to urban development created on the initiative of UN-Habitat and the World Bank that develops programs for the improvement of slum areas and city development strategies.
- At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, France presented the Charter of Basic Services, which promotes the principles of consultation and responsibility-sharing among the players involved in basic services delivery (local elected officials, central administrations, operators, users). It actively collaborated with UN-Habitat to achieve the adoption, in April 2009, of a resolution advocating universal access to basic services;
- France supports the France-UNESCO Agreement to promote the world's natural and urban heritage;
- French players participate in international networks and forums on cities (World Urban Forum, Africités, etc.). French territorial authorities are very involved in United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Metropolis, its metropolitan section.



# Strategic orientations for urban governance

The orientations of the PFVT, based on the support France provides to decentralization processes in developing countries, constitute the territorial fulfillment of French democratic governance strategy.

Centered on institutional and human capacity building, these orientations aim to reconstruct social cohesion in cities and protect the quality of natural environments and built heritage. This also entails contributing to the sustainable development of territories by improving coordination between the various levels of decision and action.

## Enhancement of the Luang Prabang (Laos) heritage

After the town of Luang Prabang, former royal capital of Laos, was added to UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites in 1995, a decentralized cooperation initiative to preserve and enhance the town's heritage was set up in partnership with the city of Chinon, France's region Centre, UNESCO and the government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

A street in Luang Prabang (Laos)



To achieve this, the PFVT proposes support to its partners in the following specific areas:

- Institutional capacity building to establish public urban development policies: development of urban knowledge tools, strategic planning, support for project management and organization of local finances;
- Training, research and experience sharing through decentralized cooperation;
- Multi-player consultation.

These orientations will be implemented in the priority areas of urban development:

- Enhancement of historic city centers;
- Land policies and peri-urban development management;
- Economic development;
- Fight against urban poverty and, in particular, access to basic services.

### **French study into land policies**

Created in 1996, the technical committee on “Land Tenure and Development” comprises experts, researchers and cooperation players. In 2009, the committee published a *White Paper on land governance* that advocates supporting land reforms in Southern countries and protecting the rights of land users.

### **New French urban policies in favor of sustainable development**

The “sustainable city” plan implemented by the French Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Marine Affairs responsible for Green Technology and Climate Negotiations deals with multiple aspects of sustainable urban development – water, waste, biodiversity, mobility, energy conservancy and renewable energies, urban density and forms, heritage, landscape; eco-construction, in particular involving the “Eco-neighborhood” and “Eco-city” programs.

## To contact the French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development

View the list of PFVT members on [www.isted.com](http://www.isted.com).

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