

Summary of the working session on Francophone regional forum on decentralization

The participant of the regional forum on decentralization in francophone Africa (Marseille June 22-24) reflected a regional follow up and came up with the following recommendation:

Key messages:

- A regional forum on decentralization and service delivery for francophone Africa is strongly supported.
- A regional forum can facilitate an exchange along similar linguistic and political realities. At the same time it should open an exchange with anglophone/lusophone countries as well as with international experience outside the continent.
- A duplication of existing networks or regional institutions should be avoided. Activities of a regional forum should align with the ongoing Kigali process and work through existing regional and national institutions (as PDM, associations of local authorities, etc.)

Main objectives and activities:

- Exchange of good practices and capacity building
- Regular regional and national seminars
- exchange forum (internet, VC, visits, etc.)

Institutional link and setup

- Link to the Kigali process with thematic sub-groups
- One focal point in every participating country and possibly a facilitating country
- Regional institution (PDM) which establishes the link to the networks of local authorities and CSOs
- Counterpart in the WB

Participants

- State and deconcentrated services
- Local authorities
- CSOs
- Pan Africa organizations
- Regional research institutions and universities
- Donors

Steps proposed:

- Synthesis note on the Marseille seminar with recommendations (fall 2007)
- Information of relevant stakeholder on a national level
- Steering committee with national representation (End of 2007)
- Terms of reference and initial program (till June 2008)