



II International Meeting
“Multilateral Framework and Decentralized
Cooperation
for the Millennium Development Goals:
10 Years of PDHL”

Havana, 29-30 September 2008

Information N. 1



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CONTEXT FOR EVENT CELEBRATION

The “Millennium Goals”, adopted in 2000 at the United Nations General Assembly, represent the unanimous commitment of the global community to reduce the highest factors of inequality in the world and achieve greater development.

Development Cooperation, with its limited resources, cannot bring about the necessary changes on its own. However, it constitutes an instrument capable of mobilizing public opinion and the participation of local communities in order to enable the exchange of technical and technological solutions, organizational and managerial models, and innovative practices among the various countries and cultural-political contexts. As such, international cooperation can become an instrument of governments and civil societies in both the North and the South that contributes to meeting the challenge of the MDGs.

It is essential to think of forms, methodologies and strategies of cooperation which promote and facilitate the participation and harmonization of action among various actors. This is particularly relevant when local communities are viewed as the ideal place for concrete development strategies implemented through the concerted action of different multilateral actors as well as national and local governments.

In December 2005, during the 1st International Meeting on Decentralized Cooperation “Multilateral Framework and Decentralized Cooperation for the Millennium Development Goals,” held in Havana, the results achieved by Cuba in developing a multi-lateral framework, decentralized cooperation modality to support local development was recognized. This event was an opportunity to articulate the different experiences of decentralized cooperation for human development over the course of these previous years. It also served as the platform to launch the ART (Apoyo a las redes territoriales - Support for Territorial Networks) proposal, a

UNDP-led initiative which promotes a new model of working with governments, local communities and social actors.

PDHL IN CUBA

Initiated in 1998, the PDHL relies on a methodology that has been defined and approved jointly with the Cuban Government and the UNDP, enabling a decentralization of decision-making and facilitates direct action and exchanges between local Cuban organizations and institutions and entities from other countries. The Program framework allows for international cooperation organizations to work in a coordinated fashion on specific issues in support of local development, increasing their efficiency and impact.

Ten years on, PDHL has implemented over 970 local and national initiatives as a result of the exchange of knowledge within a network of more than 300 cooperation actors. It has also been a catalyst of South-South cooperation and a reference model for UN inter-agency coordination.

The 2nd International Meeting on Decentralized Cooperation “Multilateral Framework and Decentralized Cooperation for the Millennium Development Goals” is organized by the Ministry for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation of Cuba (MINVEC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and its ART initiative, with the sponsorship of Associations, Funds and Committees of municipalities and provinces of five countries, as well as several regional governments and Bilateral Cooperation Agencies involved in PDHL.

The purpose of the event is twofold: on one hand, to share the results and lessons learned in the course of PDHL’s ten year history, with interested international cooperation countries and entities.

On the other hand, the meeting intends to focus participant attention on the instruments

used to generate complementary action between actors, innovation, national impact and sustainability.

In other words, the “10 years of PDHL” will provide an opportunity to discuss and examine the “process results” that are often cited in the objectives of cooperation and yet are seldomly

generated and analyzed in the cooperation programmes. Discussion regarding this issue will be highly useful, both to facilitate the consolidation of this innovative methodological proposal of cooperation in Cuba and to share it with other countries.

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PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Day/Time	Activity
28th	
18-19 h	Hotel Registration
29th	
7.30-8.30	Registration at the Plenary Hall
9.30-10.50	Greetings from the Historian of Havana (to be confirmed)
	Opening Remarks “PDHL in Cuba: 10 Years of Experience Integrating National and Local Authorities, Governments, UN Agencies and Cooperation Actors”
10.30-10.50	Coffee break
11.00-12.30	Introductory Panel: Strategic Elements of the PDHL Experience in Cuba: Decentralized Cooperation in the Multilateral Context
12.30-14.30	Lunch
14.30-16.30	Workshop 1. Potential of Decentralized Cooperation. Accomplishments and Challenges
	Workshop 2. Local Contribution to National Strategies
16.30-17.00	Coffee break
17.00-18.30	Workshop 3. Local Leadership: Inserting Local and International Actors in Local Planning Processes
	Workshop 4. Knowledge Management, UNIVERSITAS, South-South Cooperation
19.00-20:00	Welcome Dinner
30th	
8.30-10.30	Plenary Presentation of Workshop Summaries. Q&A Session

10.30-10.50	Coffee break
11.00-13.00	Panel I: ART Initiative. Exchange of Experiences in Other Countries. Current Status and Prospects
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30-16.30	Panel: Local Contribution to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Territorial Programming, Coordination and Integration
16.30-17.00	Coffee break
17.00-18.00	Closing Session
19.00	Book Presentation: "Cooperation and Innovation. The Local Human Development Program in Cuba" 10th Anniversary Cocktail
October 1fr: Optional Visits to Projects	

GENERAL INFORMATION ON CUBA

Capital City:	Havana
Population in Havana:	2 million
Dress code:	Light and casual
Average temperature:	26-28°C
Rainy season:	May to September
Hurricane season:	June to November

Electricity:

Voltage in Cuba is 110 volts and 60 cycles.
Varius hotels in Cuba are 220 volts.

Currency Exchange and Banking Services:

The official currency in circulation in Cuba is the Convertible Peso (CUC). Goods and services in the tourist sector are paid for in this currency. It is advisable to change cash into CUC upon arrival at the airport at the designated exchange bureaus, which are open 24 hours. Currency can also be exchanged in hotels, banks or exchange bureaus. (CADECAS).

When US dollars (USD) are exchanged into cash, a 10% levy is applied. Exchanges can also be made from Euros, Canadian Dollars, Pounds Sterling and other currencies, in accordance with the day's exchange rate.

Mastercard, Visa and Cabal credit cards are accepted, provided that these have not been issued

by American banks. Cards from or issued by US banks will not be accepted.

Most banks and exchange bureaus accept Thomas Cook, Visa and Eurotravel traveler's checks.

Medical Services:

Medical Services in Cuba's hospitals are free of charge for Cuban citizens. In the case of medical emergencies, any hospital or clinic will assist a foreign visitor. However, "Cira García" International Clinic, located at Avenida 41, esq. a Calle 18, Miramar, Havana, provides medical services to foreigners, whose costs must be covered according to the relevant rates.

EVENT LOGISTICS

Registration:

Participants must fill out the Registration Form (Annex 1) and be in contact with the Organizing Committee in order to finalize any outstanding details.

Procedures for Entry Into and Departure from Cuba:

Participants must enter the country on a Cooperation Visa, the visa which is used in the case of cooperation activities (Annex 2).

In the case of traveling companions, this visa will not be issued. Companions must travel on a Tourist Visa, which can be purchased from the travel agency or is included in the ticket price.

Upon departure from the country, an airport tax of 25.00 CUC is charged.

Registration:

Registration will take place in the accommodating hotel upon arrival of the participants. If this is not possible, participants must register at the Plenary Hall on 29 September from 07:30 to 08:30, prior to the Opening Session.

Working languages:

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French, Italian and Spanish. Participants must indicate the preferred language on the Registration Form (Annex 1).

Event Plenaries and Workshops:

The Plenary Sessions of the Event will take place at the main hall of St. Gerome College, located on Mercaderes e/ O'Reilly y Obispo, Old Havana (Historical Centre).

Theme Workshops 1 and 2 will take place at Salón Domingo del Monte, Ambos Mundos Hotel, located on Mercaderes, on the corner of Obispo, Old Havana.

Theme Workshops 3 and 4 will take place at the Theater of Rubén Martínez Villena Municipal Library, located on Calle Obispo, e/ Oficio y Baratillo, Old Havana.

Accommodation and Airport Transport:

Payment for accommodation and airport transport must be covered by event participants, with the following options:

Transport Airport - Hotel
29.00 CUC per person/each direction

Accommodation in Hotels Located within the City's Historical Centre

Single room, breakfast included
65.00 CUC per night

Double room, breakfast included
40.00 CUC per night per person

Dinner options for non-event nights
15.00 CUC in hotel

The accommodation package paid for by the client may include, upon his or her request, the following options:

Hotel reservation with breakfast
Airport-Hotel-Airport transport with guide
Dinner for non-event nights

The Organizing Committee covers the food expenses during the event sessions.

Hotel guests will enjoy the following courtesies:

Welcome cocktail upon arrival
Safety-deposit box in room
Free admission into the museums of the City's Historical Centre: House of Asia, House of Mexico, Tobacco Museum, Obrapia House, Simón Bolívar House

Payment must be made in CUC directly to Agencia San Cristóbal, located on Calle Oficio No. 110, e/Lamparilla y Amargura, Old Havana, or at the Agency's Tourism Desk, located in each of the hotel facilities.

For further information, please contact Elvilayne Vidal at: elvilayne@cooperahc.cu telephone numbers: (537) 860-3190, (537) 860-8472.

Food:

Event-related services, such as lunches, dinners, cocktails and coffee breaks for the participants, on 29 and 30 September, will be covered by the Event's Organizing Committee, including breakfast in the accommodation package.

ANNEX 1

Event Registration Form and Accommodation Form

II Encuentro Internacional
"Marco Multilateral y Cooperación Descentralizada para las Metas del Milenio:
10 años del PDHL"
La Habana, 29 - 30 septiembre 2008

Send the Registration form and contact

Vivian Benítez à yivian.benitez@undp.org Elvilayne Vidal à elvilayne@coopera.ohc.cu

Name: _____

Surname (s): _____

Agency: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Province : _____ Country: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Select participation I Workshops and/or social activities:

<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch on 29th	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Dinner
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch on 30th	<input type="checkbox"/> Cocktail
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 3		
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop 4		

Date of Arrival : _____ Date of Departure: _____

Type of Accommodation (single or double room): _____

Translation service: Spanish (yes / no) – (English, French, Italians): _____

Any additional requirement: _____

ANNEX 2

Cooperation Visa Application Form

Note: It is VERY important that participants complete, as soon as possible, all relevant information to apply for the Cooperation Visa, which is required to enter the country as a participant in cooperation activities.

Clarification: This only applies to event participants. Traveling companions will not be issued this type of visa. They must travel on a tourism visa, which can be purchased from the travel agency selling the air ticket or is provided by the airlines.

The following form must be sent to: vivian.benitez@undp.org by 5 September.

Full name(s) (as appearing in passport)	
Sex	
Date and Place of Birth	
Passport No.	
Nationality in Passport	
Passport Issue Date	
Passport Expiry Date	
Nearest Cuban Consulate (or Embassy) at country of residence for procurement of visa	
Date of Entry into Cuba	
Date of Departure from Cuba	
Trip purpose	To participate in the event "10 Years of PDHL"