

## ADVISORY BOARD & COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY

On June 2nd, 2023, the Local Public Sector Alliance (LPSA) organized an Advisory Board and Community Meeting. The meeting was initiated by [Serdar Yilmaz](#), who serves as the Chair of LPSA's Advisory Board. Serdar commenced the meeting by providing an overview of the agenda, which included a comprehensive review of LPSA's activities since the last meeting and an update on the progress of establishing working groups. Additionally, Serdar announced his decision to step down from his role as the Chair of the LPSA Advisory Board, prompting the search for a new Chair.

Serdar then called upon [Jamie Boex](#), the Executive Director of LPSA, to present a synopsis of the progress made on the State of Local Governance Institutions (SOLGI), recent webinars organized by LPSA, and the DeLOG/UCLG-CIB Annual Meeting held in Marrakech. Jamie shared that several [Local Governance Institutions Comparative Assessment \(LoGICA\)](#) profiles, including those of South Africa, Ethiopia, Indonesia, East Timor, and Bangladesh, are available [online](#). Furthermore, Jamie mentioned that Nick Travis was in the process of finalizing profiles for Tanzania, Uganda, and Malawi. Jamie stressed the need for additional funding to sustain this work and to engage with partners involved in the Working Groups. Additionally, Jamie highlighted the success of an LPSA webinar on the topic of "[Two Decades of Decentralization in Indonesia](#)," which had attracted 138 attendees and garnered positive feedback and YouTube views.

Jamie also reported on their participation in the DeLOG/UCLG-CIB meetings, expressing a willingness to support the organization in its transformation and preparation for the upcoming phase under the steering committee of development partners. The insights gained from the annual meeting played a significant role in informing LPSA's work plan for the forthcoming year.

Following Jamie's update, Serdar provided further updates on other LPSA activities. He specifically outlined the progress made thus far in implementing the LoGICA framework in Cambodia and parts of francophone Africa, particularly in Niger, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic. Serdar noted that the framework manual and the accompanying Excel sheet had been translated into French.

Serdar emphasized LPSA's objective of establishing additional working groups, both regional and thematic, throughout the remainder of the year. The Hewlett Foundation had extended support for the working groups under the theme of achieving global diversity and had allocated resources for part-time working group coordinators to assist with outreach programs and capacity building. Recognizing the importance of diversity and inclusion, LPSA's Board of Directors, with the support of the Hewlett Foundation, has initiated efforts to promote these values in all aspects of LPSA's programs and organization. LPSA is actively seeking [nominations for working group co-chairs](#), with a particular focus on attracting a diverse group of professionals in terms of gender and regional representation.

Currently, three working groups are operational, with three co-chairs for the Africa and Asia working group and four co-chairs for the Europe and Central Asia working group. In the coming months, LPSA planned to establish working groups for Latin America and the Middle East, after which the emphasis will shift to thematic working groups.

During this time, Jamie also reiterated the need to find a suitable replacement for Serdar as the Chair of the Advisory Board, as he would soon be assuming his new role as the Manager of the Public Finance Group at the World Bank and given his increased responsibilities in his new role, he would be stepping down as Chair. [Deborah \(Debbie\) Wetzel](#) proposed outlining the core requirements for the chair position and initiating a fair and transparent selection process. [Paul Smoke](#) expressed agreement with the idea of self-nominations or nominations based on brief descriptions. Throughout the discussion, [John Coonrod](#) suggested including diversity and inclusion as criteria for selecting the new chair. He also inquired about the regions where decentralization was advancing. Serdar agreed, emphasizing the importance of finding an individual passionate about decentralization and committed to diversity. Jamie acknowledged the comments and emphasized LPSA's plan for an inclusive nomination process, acknowledging the challenge of attracting candidates from the global South but expressing a commitment to reflecting the community of practice. The discussion concluded with an invitation for participants to suggest candidates working at the grassroots level.

During the meeting, Debbie and Paul expressed concerns about the confusion between localization and decentralization in global discussions. They highlighted the challenge of prioritizing local governments and the potential threat to decentralization efforts. [Christian Luy](#) emphasized the need to connect the community and promote a better understanding of the importance of decentralization. He expressed optimism about the future of decentralization and localization, envisioning them as drivers for peace and stability. Overall, there was a sense of cautious optimism about the progress and future direction of decentralization efforts.

Within the discussion, [Emmely Benschop](#) discussed the significance of marketing and rebranding decentralization as "multi-level governance" to generate more interest. She noted that a few years ago, the term "decentralization" attracted significant attention, but now it has lost its appeal. Emmely expressed optimism about the current focus on multi-level governance, which has attracted more participants and generated greater interest. The importance of sectors such as climate change adaptation and local empowerment within the context of multi-level governance was also discussed. The participants recognized the need for collective efforts, resources, and stakeholder support to advance the conversation on multi-level governance.

During the meeting, [Nicholas Awortwi](#) suggested the importance of providing conceptual clarity on the LPSA website regarding localization and decentralization. Debbie agreed and mentioned the necessity of clarifying the relationship between the two concepts. Paul emphasized the significance of finance and highlighted the issue of subnational borrowing. The meeting concluded with a discussion about future webinars focused on decentralization, localization, and governance.