

Participation & Accountability



Africa regional conference and workshop on participatory budgeting
– March 10-14, 2008 • Royal Hotel, Durban, South Africa

“Better governance means greater participation coupled with accountability” – Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General

Opening new channels of dialogue in local governance. Participatory budgeting brings citizens into the process of making municipal governance decisions on spending and service delivery. This growing movement has succeeded in developing countries in Asia, Latin America and, more recently, Africa.

- **Learn** from context-specific case studies on participatory budgeting, including best practices and benchmarking from other countries, with tips on how to apply these lessons to your own municipality
- **Develop** a formidable team in your local area to promote an approach to governance that emphasises growing and developing poor communities; and how to measure performance for effectiveness
- **Understand** the broadening roles and responsibilities of local government in shaping policies that enhance social accountability, and realising the potential of your municipality through participatory budgeting



Seasoned practitioners will share their experiences in these successful initiatives:

- The Participatory Budgeting Regional Knowledge and Action Support Facility: distance learning training and action support
- The Participatory Budgeting Radio Program
- Participatory Budgeting Companion: face-to-face training to local practitioners

The first of a series in Africa

The Participation & Accountability Conference will initiate a process of sharing, communicating, training and systematic follow-up and evaluation, to establish sustainable initiatives that will make a lasting difference in the lives of Africans and the growth of their communities and nations.

Peer-to-peer learning:

- How to assist the decentralisation of democratic processes in African nations
- How to reform national policy and institutionalise efforts to engage citizens, civil society and local government in budget transparency, participatory budget formulation, public expenditure monitoring and service performance evaluation
- How to promote direct and continuous co-operation in participatory budgeting among local governments and civil society across Africa. A site visit will be part of the conference

Municipalities will have the opportunity to launch city-to-city direct co-operation initiatives and develop joint projects, including possible partnerships with community partners in Latin America.

Plenary sessions will discuss:

- Structuring government to promote the participation of citizens in decision making
- Linking participatory budgeting to development
- Fiscal administration dimensions of participatory budgeting
- Communication and capacity building



The Royal Hotel, Durban, South Africa

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