Global Cities Dialogue – The Melbourne Action Plan

Eight-point plan
adopted by the GA
on 7 September 2001

1 . Introduction

During the second annual General Assembly Meeting (GAM) of the Global Cities Dialogue held in Melbourne Australia, 5 - 7 September 2001 a number of forums and dialogue opportunities were created for Mayors and their High Political Representatives.

Fourteen internationally recognized projects from around the world were presented to the delegates, identifying the common themes inherent in successful projects. The projects covered the major areas facing governments such as digital divide, e-government, e-democracy, e-development and e-commerce. The lessons learnt from these projects and subsequent discussions highlighted a number of key elements emerging from the projects, which have been included in this document referred to as the Melbourne Action Plan.

In addition to the project presentations a further five discussion papers were presented to the delegates by Mayors, a member of the Global Business Dialogue on Electronic Commerce (GBDe) and High Political Representatives. The recommendations and proposals from these papers have also been incorporated into the Melbourne Action Plan.

The purpose of the Melbourne Action Plan is to carry forward the key lessons, ideas and initiatives arising from the GAM, in a coordinated and structured manner with the aim of involving a broad cross section of members from both the GCD in the implementation process.

It is proposed that a number of virtual working groups be formed to address each action item. Each working group would be chaired by cities with specialist expertise, interest and knowledge in the area, involving a minimum of 4 other GCD member cities , aiming of seek new solutions using this extensive network. As part of this process there is a priority need to recognize the political impact and consequences in each action item with Mayors and other High Political representatives being involved in the information sharing.

2. Action Items

The following eight action items represent what has now become the Melbourne Action Plan of the GCD meeting in 2001:

Action Item 1. - The Development of a Common Set of Indicators

It was felt that there is a need to develop a framework for a community process in the form of a set of indictors for the usage of GCD member cities. This is required, as currently municipalities don't always know how to measure the potential impact of technology on the health and vitality of the city. Such a set of standards for indicators could provide an auditing, monitoring and strategic tool.

The proposed leading city for this action item would be Seattle, USA and the results of this action item to be completed during 2001/2002.

Action Item 2. - Simultaneous and linked public event among GCD member cities

It has been identified that there is a lack of branding and recognition of the GCD as a network. In developing such an event with some 77 cities during a number of special days throughout the world would generate considerable positive publicity for GCD members.

The aim is for the State of Victoria, Australia in collaboration with its networks to present a proposal outlining how this item could be addressed. The results of this action item would be ongoing.

Action Item 3. The continual development of the GCD web site.

There is a need for increased communication and 'community' building amongst GCD members and their communities. The additions proposed in this action item are to further develop the site in the areas of addressing the FAQs and development of a membership database.

The proposed leading city for this action item would be Ronneby, Sweden and the results of this action item to be completed during 2001/2002.

Action Item 4.- Creation of a knowledge transfer network

An important and primary value of being a member of the GCD is to continue learning from others facing similar challenges. Many cities appear to be involved in similar initiatives, often 'reinventing the wheel'. There is potential to share the learning's of successes and failures thereby fast tracking the implementation of future projects and reducing learning curves.

The proposed Chair City for this action item would be Stockholm, Sweden and the results of this action item to be completed during 2001/2002.

Action Item 5. - Getting the GBDe to participate in GCD projects

There are many synergies for both the GCD and GBDe in working cooperatively in the information society, these opportunities should be identified and communicated to both groups. The GCD steering committee will produce a paper outlining the GCD principles in building effective and sustainable working relationship.

The proposed chair for this action item would be the GCD Steering Committee and the results of this action item would be ongoing.

Action Item 6.- The creation of laboratory/training opportunity on e-democracy and civic telematics by GCD members.

Developing and exchanging skills among young people from different countries has many benefits to future leaders in the information society, within the GCD network. See attached paper presented by Bologna at the GAM.

The proposed leading city for this action item would Bologna, Italy and the results of this action item to be completed during 2001/2002,

Action Item 7. Research Into best practice public administrations by member cities

This item would address the role and status of public administrations facing globalization aspects of the information society regarding the impact on their structures and skills development. See attached paper presented by Cologne at the GAM

The proposed leading city for this action item would Cologne, Germany and the results of this action item to be completed during 2001/2002.

Action Item 8. Information exchange on initiatives concerning mobile platforms and infrastructure for city administrations

The GCD to adopt a leadership role in the development of structures for the future Mobile Citizen. See attached paper presented by Bremen at the GAM.

The proposed leading city for this action item would Bremen, Germany and the results of this action item would be ongoing.

3. Conclusions

The above eight action items are those considered by the organizing committee to be of highest priority for the GCD in the next 12 months. It is expected that each city involved in coordinating an action item will be responsible for the establishment of the terms of reference and recruitment for the action item.

The Melbourne Action Plan has been adopted by the General Assembly.