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**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

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SUMMARY RECORD

**17th Session of the Territorial Development Policy Committee
held on 20-21 June 2007, Rome**

**28-29 November 2007
IEA, 9 rue de la Fédération, 75015 Paris**

The Summary Record of the 17th Session of the Territorial Development Policy committee is submitted to delegates for APPROVAL at its 18th Session, 28-29 November 2007.

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TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17TH SESSION

1. Mr. Mark Drabenstott thanked the Department for Development Policies of the Ministry for Economic Development, for hosting the meeting in Rome in such a perfect venue. At the initiative of the Italian Government a symposium was co-organised with the OECD on *Setting standards for local public goods provision: challenges for regional development*, in the morning preceding the TDPC. The OECD Deputy Secretary-General, Aart de Geus, and Minister for Economic Development, Italy, Pier Luigi Bersani made opening addresses, underlying the challenging issue of reforming relations with sub-central governments for better performance. In his concluding remarks, TDPC Chair, Mark Drabenstott (United States) highlighted the synergies with the TDPC work programme and the excellent results of the symposium.

17th Session of TDPC – Introductory remarks by Mr. Art de Geus, OECD Deputy Secretary-General

2. In his opening remarks the **OECD Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Aart de Geus** highlighted the important role that TDPC plays and how instrumental it has been in helping to reorient regional policies to meet the challenges of inequalities on a regional level. He noted the positive results of the recent Programme Implementation Reporting exercise (PIR) -where TDPC rated well above the OECD average- and the increasing visibility of the Committee's work through horizontal and country reviews and international conferences on regional, urban and rural policy. Mr. de Geus highlighted the core issues addressed within the OECD and the adjustment problems arising from globalisation and reform, which, manifested at the regional level, affect national growth. He highlighted OECD work, relevant to TDPC, such as political economy of reform, which looks at the strategic assessment of regional policy to identify what has happened and the obstacles. He mentioned innovation, as another key theme, which has a crucial regional perspective with the achievement of national growth objectives. Mr de Geus remarked on a new unit of analysis that the work on cities brings in helping to identify the level at which public policies should act. In addition, he welcomed the Committee's increasing interest in Global Relations. The Deputy Secretary-General noted that it could be time to organise another meeting at the political level to reinforce the key messages and the work that has to be done to further increase the visibility and strengthen the work of TDPC.

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

3. The Chair, Mr. Mark Drabenstott, presented the agenda of the 17th Session of TDPC, which was approved by the Committee. He highlighted the link between the issues on the agenda and those raised at the Ministerial Council meeting this year, with particular focus on regional performance and competitiveness, the impact of regional policy strategies, and global relations activities, including globalisation and the role of cities, cities and growth, and innovation. The Chair welcomed a new delegate from Mexico, Sara Topelson, Vice-Minister, Urban Development, Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL), elected Vice-Chair of WPURB the previous day; and from Chile, Claudia Serrano, Under Secretary of Regional Development, Observer to TDPC since March 2007. In addition, the Committee welcomed the participation of Morocco (Observer), as well as an expert from the World Bank.

Item 2: The Committee approved the **Summary Record of the Territorial Development Policy Committee of its 16th Session.**

Item 3: Presentation by Chairs of TDPC and its Working Parties

4. **In his presentation the Chair, Mr. Mark Drabenstott** stressed the importance to keep the Committee's mission clear and agenda focused, and stated that a significant challenge at this juncture would be to bring more analytical rigour to the programme. The question on why regional policy is needed is mostly past, as countries see that many regional policies are implemented. If the main aim of the Committee is to diagnose regional competitive advantage, it should devote efforts to provide better tools to diagnose this. More generally, Mr. Drabenstott suggested exploring new ways to engage member country participation by tapping into the expertise of each member country representative, to explore alternative ways of format, with more member country interventions, and thus obtain richer feedback and exchange of views around the table. About future events, the Chair drew delegates' attention to the forthcoming Conference on Globally Competitive, Locally Engaged: Higher Education and Regions, Valencia (Spain) on the 19-21 September 2007, organised by EDU/IMHE in collaboration with GOV. The report related to the conference is available on the table, and concerns a joint activity EDU/GOV: Policies to enhance the role of higher education institutions in regional development: final report, important work, of relevance to TDPC for future activities. The Chair invited the Working Party Chairs, Dev Virdee, (United Kingdom) WPTI, Margaret Clark, (United Kingdom) WPRUR, and Takayuki Hara, (Japan) WPURB, to report on past, ongoing and future activities of the working parties.

5. **Mr. Dev Virdee, Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Indicators (WPTI)**, reported on the recent developments of the working party and the outcome of the 14th Session. He commended the second edition of OECD Regions at a Glance, as a key publication. It received excellent press coverage and was a highly ranked output in the recent PIR exercise. He described work on the 'Sources of Economic Growth' and on 'Estimating Regional GDP'. In respect of countries unable to supply data, where OECD had made estimates, he expressed caution on how the figures are to be interpreted and presented. Regarding the collection of data; Mr. Virdee mentioned regional innovation statistics, as a key aspect that should be looked at in terms of regional competitiveness, which requires contributions from Member countries. Concerning work carried out on defining and measuring metropolitan regions since the Workshop (Paris, November 2006), the Chair mentioned that while there was no single definition, guidance on how to proceed in this area would be helpful. Another important question is the need to revisit the definition of what is meant by rural regions, and to update to reflect change and new data. Suggestions for future meetings could include a joint meeting or workshop between the indicators, urban and rural groups. Within the context of global relations, he mentioned interesting ongoing work on producing a regional typology in China.

6. **Mrs. Margaret Clark, Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas (WPRUR)**, reported on the activities of the group since its 8th Session in October 2006. The Chair noted the relevance to the Working Party of the Symposium held that morning. She described the outcome of 5th annual rural policy conference, "Innovative Rural Regions: The Role of Human Capital and Technology", hosted by the Government of Extremadura, in Cáceres, Spain, 21-23 March 2007. The main message that emerged was that innovation is not a choice but a must for rural regions and fundamental to their future sustainability. Four key areas emerged as necessary requisites for public policy to stimulate and support rural innovation and the Chair stressed need to involve new actors across all sectors. First, human capital development; second, the need to develop financial services; third, the need to bridge the digital divides and develop ICTs; and fourth, the need to develop cooperative approaches and institutions. As the Working Party moves on from the consensus of the new rural paradigm to begin implementing the tools, the forthcoming annual conference is timely. It will be hosted by Germany, in Spring 2008, and will focus on public service delivery. Mrs. Clark noted the growing interest in three main ways. 1) National rural policy reviews. Those carried out in 2006 on Mexico and Germany Reviews, will be complemented by those on

Finland, Netherlands and Scotland, forthcoming in 2007. 2) An interesting debate around issues affecting rural development in a meeting held the day before, organized at the initiative of the Italian Government, Department for Economic Cohesion Policy, Ministry of Economic Development. 3) Work engaged with non members, in particular regarding rural development in China. Finally, Mrs. Clark stressed the importance of indicators and, in line with WPTI Chair, stressed the need to reinforce what is currently available to look at the definition of rural regions. Mrs. Clark expressed a personal farewell and thanks to her colleague, Takayuki Hara, as Chair of WPURB, whose commitment, advice and wise council over the years she has greatly valued. TDPC Chair also wished Mr. Hara well in the years to come and reiterated, on behalf of the Committee, his deepest gratitude for his longstanding service.

7. **Mr. Takayuki Hara, Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas (WPURB)** since its creation in 1999, thanked Margaret Clark and Mark Drabenstott, Committee and Working Party delegates for their support. He was pleased to note that TDPC activities and the territorial approach to regional economy problems are confirmed within major activities of OECD activities and anticipates that TDPC activities will succeed from the social and environmental point of views. Mr. Hara welcomed **Mr. Adam Ostry, (Canada) as newly elected Chair at the Working Party's 9th Session** the day before and TDPC Chair congratulated him in turn. Mr. Ostry reported on the recent urban policy conference "What Policies for Globalising Cities? Rethinking the Urban Policy Agenda", held on 29-30 March, in Madrid, Spain. The Province of Milan (Italy) is hosting the second annual roundtable meeting between Mayors and Ministers, in Milan, September 2008. The Chair mentioned the Working Party's support to continue work on defining metropolitan and also the proposal to hold a joint working party meeting. Two metropolitan governance and competitiveness reviews were also discussed: "the Case of Madrid" and "the Case of Istanbul". The Committee approved the metropolitan review of Madrid, presented by the Spanish authorities. The Review of Istanbul, which could not be presented by the Turkish authorities at the Working Party was submitted to the TDPC (see item 10). The Chair mentioned country presentations from Italy, describing strategies for the development of Naples, followed by an intervention by France on the Regional Master Plan. A discussion was then held on how to promote better integration of urban communities. The Session wrapped up with a roundtable discussion on climate change, which aimed to focus, over the short term, in the context of the next G8 Summit on climate change on the issue of the nexus of relationship between climate change, competitiveness and urban areas. This will be pursued as the Working Party reflects on its contribution to the next TDPC Programme of Work. The TDPC Chair commended the success of the Madrid conference, which is an affirmation of the broader value of the Committee's agenda.

Statement by the Director

8. Mrs. Odile Sallard, Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate (GOV), described the latest developments in GOV and the OECD overall. She explained the need to start thinking ahead in terms of priorities for the TDPC programme of work, 2009-10, and the renewal of its mandate in December 2009, for which a proposal should be presented beginning 2009. The roundtable on the strategic assessment of regional policy aims to launch a discussion to help guide the Committee in its future orientations. In building this agenda the Committee should reflect on potential main messages for a high-level meeting, in terms of achievements and future directions. The Director then described the assessment process currently developed at the OECD, notably the "Programme Implementation Reporting exercise" As mentioned by Mr. de Geus the positive results highlighted the impact of the Committee's work in countries. Another exercise concerns the Medium-Term Orientations (MTO), which focuses on priorities within the OECD at large, and aims to guide the Secretary-General in the allocation of budget resources. Delegates' contribution to this is important, in order to highlight the value of the Committee's work, as resource allocation will depend on the results provided by member countries. The Director informed the Committee of the OECD Council Resolution on Enlargement and Enhanced Engagement (accession countries: Chile, Estonia, Israel, Russia and Slovenia; enhanced engagement: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, South Africa). The Director described ongoing work with China, and welcomed work

undertaken, with the support of several delegates, on assessing the strategies in the area of Chongqing. Other country reviews with non-members concern a possible metropolitan review of Sao Paulo, Brazil, as well as a metropolitan review of the area of Cape Town, South Africa. The Chair thanked the Director, and reiterated the importance of the Medium-Term Orientations exercise for TDPC.

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE AND COMPETITIVENESS

Item 4: Identifying the sources of economic growth in OECD regions: interim report

9. *The Sources of Economic Growth in OECD regions* describes statistical trends that decompose GDP growth into 7 components after controlling national factors, identifying which regions have performed particularly well or badly, in terms of output and productivity growth over 1998-2003, and the factors that have supported or hindered growth. Analysis drawn from case studies aims to establish a link between policies – undertaken by the selected regions in the specific fields that account for fast growth – and economic performance. The report was of great interest to the Committee, which supported the proposal to continue this work and agreed that the final report should be published. Specific comments were made by France, Italy, Korea, Norway, The Netherlands, and the United States. The trends highlighted the differences in analytical methods and amongst the profiles of regions. Some questions were raised about the rankings of the regions and interest was expressed in the analysis of why regions are the way they are, the need to look into the figures to explain more, and which policies impact the regional drivers. Delegates also suggested initiating work on econometric analysis. The Secretariat noted the comments and agreed to continue to push information in terms of statistics as much as possible to highlight the direction for quality analysis, with a continued aim to build a bridge between statistics and policy information in member countries. Specific comments in terms of data, extensions in econometrics will also be taken into consideration. The Chair acknowledged the short time line in which the analysis was conducted and recognized the difficulty in identifying policy impacts in the short run. He recommended that the Committee should continue this work, to develop methodologies, in order to assess how much of what countries do is due to policy. He thanked Vincenzo Spiezia (leaving GOV), Head of the Statistics and Indicators Unit, and his team for their outstanding services.

Item 5: Globalisation and regional economies: the impact of policies to support regional specialisation and clusters

10. The final report *Globalisation and Regional Economies* was presented and approved for publication. This report, the synthesis of a joint project between OECD and Nutek (the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth), looks at different regional strategies to support and develop regional competitive advantages in both mature and high growth sectors, in dynamic regions and regions in transition. Examples of issues addressed include the shift from manufacturing-based regional economies to economies that focus on service-oriented activities; the implications of dependence on multinationals for a regional economy; and the local impact of investment in R&D and innovation in the context of globalisation. Interventions from Sweden, Greece, the Netherlands, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Chairman illustrated the importance to delegates of this work for regional economic development. The Committee expressed an active interest in seeing more research in this area, including the newly launched Regional Innovation Reviews.

THE IMPACT OF REGIONAL POLICY STRATEGIES

Item 6: Roundtable on the Strategic Assessment of Regional Policy

11. As the Committee begins to reflect on the renewal of its mandate (end 2009) and its work programme (2009-10), the roundtable discussion on *Strategic assessments of regional policy in member countries* aimed to launch a discussion and possibly analytical work within the Committee on the

achievements of regional policy reform across the OECD, and how the TDPC can reinforce its role as the *key International Forum on Regional Policy*.

12. The Committee congratulated the Secretariat on the issues paper, which addresses questions at the heart of the political agenda, and provides useful policy tools and a check list on how far we have gone in new regional policy. Delegates intervened in support of the proposed orientations of work, specifying their relevance in different national contexts. Interventions by Austria, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, echoed current policy strategies, new initiatives and future perspectives. Delegates discussed the implementation of innovative regional policy in OECD countries (“the reality of the paradigm shift”) and the obstacles for reforming regional policy (“the political economy of regional policy reforms”), questions that are also relevant in many other international organizations, such as the World Bank, IADB, and in the EU. The EU participated in the TDPC debate and stressed the importance of a joint collaboration, very timely in view of the EU’s calendar, as it begins a strong policy debate on the framework of regional policy in Europe (within the context of the EU budget review beginning 2008 at the beginning of the next Presidency). In the context of this discussion, delegates strongly supported the relevance of the monitoring reviews, such as the one carried out in Mexico, as a useful exercise for other countries, already reviewed at the national level. Switzerland announced its interest for a monitoring review to be carried out in 2008. Finally, several member countries indicated forthcoming events related to regional development strategies, information that would be shared with all in due course.

13. In his conclusions the Chair welcomed the rich discussion, which provided useful insight for the preparation of the Committee’s mandate renewal. He noted the need to recognise that regional collaboration brings collective growth, the importance of work on innovation and to consider the political economy of reform. He invited intervening countries to e-mail their interventions to the Secretariat and encouraged others to provide input. A synthesis of the discussion will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Item 7: Mexico Monitoring Review

14. The Committee discussed and approved the *Territorial Monitoring Review of Mexico*. The review was introduced by the Secretariat, followed by a presentation by Sara Topelson, Vice-Minister for Urban Development and Territorial Planning, SEDESOL. This report is the result of a recent initiative to assess the progress made by previously reviewed countries. The first Territorial Review of Mexico was carried out in 2002. The Monitoring Review, conducted in 2006, examined the coherence of institutional arrangements for delivering place-based policies, the challenges and opportunities facing rural areas, and the unique needs of Mexico's urban areas. The presentation emphasized the OECD's analytic approach to assessing governance issues. Mrs. Topelson commented on the report, thanked the OECD, and raised interest for TDPC to work more on experience and knowledge in Mexico in local and micro-regional fields. During the debate, delegates congratulated the Secretariat on the report and drew parallels with policy experiences and initiatives in their countries. Specific comments made by Greece, Italy, the United States, and the World Bank highlighted their interest in the assessment of how Mexico addresses regional policy, which provided a good opportunity to share experiences concerning the developments and challenges faced by countries. Delegates remarked that impacts on regional policy in Member states depend on increased coordination among actors, that the multi-level decision making process of regional development is important for reaching national goals, and that the financial dimension is also crucial. Greece expressed great interest in Mexico’s micro-regional policies and shared some brief experiences on real estate and property and land reform. Italy described some dimensions of their multi-level governance arrangements for regional policy which have proved to be important. Specific comments were made regarding the coordination of national and regional strategies, financing arrangements, and incentives for performance. The United States shared lessons learned from the ‘Strengthening America’s Communities

Initiative', which attempted to increase the coherence of place-based policies in the U.S. and to introduce a corresponding gatekeeper - both topics addressed in the Monitoring Review of Mexico. The World Bank raised questions about the level of analysis and intervention, new structures for coherence in the planning process and how they can be linked to existing structures, coherence and capacity, institutional design, and the link between incentives, results and budgets. The Chair invited other countries to undertake a monitoring exercise and welcomed the interest shown by Switzerland for a monitoring review in 2008.

Item 8: The Case of Luxembourg

15. The Territorial Review of Luxembourg was discussed and approved by delegates, at the exception of Greece. The Greek delegate brought up a matter of procedure concerning the fact that only the Luxembourg Assessment & Recommendations were supplied in English, suggesting that the final approval by his country might be linked to the availability of the English version of the review text in July. Interventions followed by Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States. Countries drew upon their experience of cross-border cooperation and, in particular, the challenges related to transportation. Austria underlined the need for pragmatic responses to institutional complexity between partners with differing status (Sovereign states, local governments). Germany highlighted the importance of innovative concepts devised in Luxembourg to develop public transportation, which should be managed at the scale of the Grande-Région, and the EU structural funds, which could be called upon to develop a joint transportation system across the Grande Région; Belgium noted the insufficient development of certain railroad links within the Grande-Région as an obstacle to better mastering the important cross-border commuter flows. France suggested that the new "Groupement Européen de Coopération Territoriale (GECT) could provide an effective framework for this, also associating citizens. The United States drew attention to the fact that in metropolitan areas infrastructure investments are not always necessarily the only adequate response to increasing transportation needs. The Netherlands stressed the fact that land use plans cannot be flexible, as they must offer guarantees to landowners. The Secretariat noted the Committee's comments, most of which are quite positive, with practical suggestions to implement certain recommendations.

Item 9: The Case of Norway

16. The Committee discussed and approved the Territorial Review of Norway. In the debate that followed, Canada, the Czech Republic, Spain and Sweden drew parallels between recent regional reform in their country and the process underway in Norway, stressing the importance to ensure correspondence between administrative and functional regions. Sweden described the main issue of the trade-off between economic development concerns leading to the bigger size of regions and public service proximity. Concerning cross-sector coordination, the Swedish delegate underlined the fact that the existence of a Ministry in charge of regional policy in Norway is a positive factor. In the area of urban policy, he questioned whether maintaining the main features of the settlement pattern is compatible with the global economy. The Czech Republic welcomed the Norwegian example of a Government sub-committee on rural and regional policy, facilitating cross-sector cooperation at the national level. Spain is faced with similar policy concerns. Amalgamation meets historic resistance so inter-municipal cooperation is the preferred solution to public service delivery requirements. Municipalities retain important responsibilities, which is not incompatible with strong decentralisation at the regional level. Canada underlined the positive place-based approach referred to in the White Paper on the Oslo region. The Canadian delegate also drew parallels between urban development in Norway and the "County sustainable development plans" elaborated in Canada. The Secretariat noted the Committee's comments highlighting major public service issues linked to low population density, cross-sector cooperation and urban competitiveness that Norway shares with a certain number of other OECD countries.

Item 10: Strategies for Urban Competitiveness and Governance: The Case of Istanbul, Turkey

17. The metropolitan review of *the Case of Istanbul, Turkey* was presented at TDPC, for discussion and approval, due to the unavailability of the main representative of the Istanbul Municipality, to attend the 9th Session of WPURB the day before. The review was conducted in collaboration with the Metropolitan Municipality and the State Planning Organisation. The Secretariat introduced the report, followed by a presentation by Central Government: Mr Taner Kavasoglu, Regional Development and strategic Planning Expert, State Planning Organisation, and Mr. Mesut Pektas, Secretary-General, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Peer reviewers Adam Ostry (Canada), Vincent Fouchier (France), (Flavia Terribile (Italy), and Ms. Kazuko Ishigaki (Japan) on behalf of Mr. Nishikawa, (Japan) then commented on the review. The main topics included: (i) productive restructuring in labour intensive industries, informal economy and productivity challenges (ii) planning issues in the case of a mega-city and environmental concerns (including illegal housing, transport and disaster risks) and (iii) decentralisation and local public management. Delegates discussed the review, and specific comments made by Mexico reflected the quality of the report, and the comparisons drawn showed the similarity in the challenges faced. Greece contested facts stated in the review and informed the Secretariat that they were placing an embargo on the report, in order to make adjustments as necessary before it could be approved. The Secretariat noted the comments and the confidentiality of the report before the embargo is lifted.

Item 11: Public Governance and Territorial Development in Global Relations: Developing a Framework

18. The Committee was asked to reflect on a rationale and framework for an initiative to consolidate the main principles and guidelines that have emerged from the work of the TDPC, in order to use these as the building blocks for global relations work. Currently, the main focus of the work proposed for 2007-8 is on China, where regional policy is high on the political agenda, and on Latin America. At this stage, delegates were requested to think about to what extent this initiative would be valuable both for the Committee and for partners in non-member countries and on which aspects of their work appear most appropriate for the transfer of experience with non-member governments. Work carried out in this area could be in partnership with the Public Governance Committee, i.e. as one of the chapters of this document (see Chapter 8, Territorial development and multi-level governance), or, alternatively, TDPC could develop its own framework, with the same objectives and similar structure, but focusing on the key issues that have grown out of this Committee's work. The Chair mentioned that it would be useful to have set of core principles to guide this engagement.

Co-operation with Latin America on Regional Development

Chile

19. Ms. Claudia Serrano Madrid, Under-Secretary of State, Regional and Administrative Development, Ministry of the Interior, Government of Chile, presented regional policy developments in Chile and described current challenges and development strategies. She insisted on the relevance of the TDPC discussions and outputs for regional policy challenges in Chile. Delegates intervened from Canada, France, Italy, Mexico, and Spain, drawing parallels with similar policy experiences, looking forward to a future strong collaboration. Morocco mentioned long standing co-operation with Chile, involved in the development policy related to territorial management. The World Bank was interested to learn about the balance between the central and the regional plans. The Chair reiterated his welcome to Chile as Observer in the Committee and looked forward to the outcome of the OECD Territorial Review of Chile, about to begin this summer.

OECD Territorial Reviews: The Case of Yucatán

20. The review was introduced by Mrs Sara Topelson, Vice-Minister, Urban Development, Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL), who described the Yucatán example and the challenges and objectives from the perspective of the Mexican Government. Alberto Reyes Carrillo of the Yucatán State Government then intervened. Following a brief presentation by the OECD Secretariat, peer reviewers: Maximillian Spiess (participating on behalf of Jonathan Kings, New Zealand), and Massimo Bressan (Italy) commented on the review. This report is a follow up to the OECD Territorial Review of the Mesoamerican Region (2006), which includes southern Mexico and other Central American countries. Yucatán is a lagging yet fast-growing region in Southern Mexico. The review of Yucatán provided the opportunity to explore policies that have led to such dynamism and entail the process of convergence experienced in OECD regions. However, many of the challenges of lagging regions such as poor governance, lack of municipal co-operation, environmental threats, poverty and marginalisation, as well as lack of credit and a large informal economy are evident in Yucatán hampering future growth. Delegates described relevant policy experiences in their country and comments highlighted successful programmes for developing collaboration strategy among actors, and similarities were drawn between regions like the Yucatan, that have a significant dependence on Tourism. The Committee discussed and approved the "Territorial Review of Yucatán". The Mexican authorities thanked and congratulated the Secretariat on the quality of the report. General comments from Canada, Spain highlighted the issue of cultural heritage and tourism development, and Greece thanked the researcher on the diversity of tools and multisectoral approach taken.

Co-operation with China on Regional Development Rural China: Trends and Policy Challenges.

21. An *analytical report* was discussed and approved, as part of the TDPC's programme of collaboration with China, which will contribute to a 2008 publication called "Territorial Development in China: Trends and Policy Challenges". It focuses on the three regional programmes adopted successively since 2000 (the Western Development Strategy, the Northeast Rejuvenation Strategy and the newly adopted strategy to promote the central region). Specific interventions were made by Canada, France, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom, highlighting examples of bi-lateral collaboration with China, and joint concerns related to competitiveness (clusters) and governance (and the importance of horizontal co-operation between regions), including the importance of education, environment, spatial planning (public service delivery), and sustainability issues. The session wrapped up with insights from a mission in **Chongqing Municipality**, made at the invitation of the Chinese government. Delegates expressed their interest in specific areas of the programme of collaboration with China and in the creation of a "club" of countries particularly interested in the work with China. The Secretariat informed the Committee that it would be co-ordinating the creation of such a steering group in the weeks following the meeting.

Item 12: Other business

22. The Chair asked the Secretariat to move forward as soon as possible with the publication of the various reports discussed. He announced the forthcoming metropolitan review of Toronto, at the request of the City of Toronto, the Provincial Government of Ontario and the Federal Government of Canada. He thanked delegates for their participation, reiterated thanks to the Italian Government for hosting the meetings, for the preparations entailed. He mentioned that it could be worthwhile to think about whether the Committee wishes to hold meetings from time to time in other places, to choose associated topics, or in the context of a review. The next meetings of the Committee will take place during the week of 26 November 2007.

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