



The UN-affiliated Cities Alliance has signed a Grant Agreement worth half a million US Dollars (440,000 Euros) to support inclusive development in Tunisian municipalities.

The Cities Alliance grant will strengthen the capacity of local authorities to implement quick win projects in support of inclusive city development. In addition, it will facilitate the supply of technical assistance to municipalities in Tunisia, with a commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women at its core.

The agreement was signed in Brussels yesterday by Souad Abderrahim, Mayor of Tunis and representative of the Federation of Tunisian cities and William Cobbett, Director of Cities Alliance.

City Alliance is a global partnership hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), works to promote the role of cities in poverty reduction and sustainable development.

“We are delighted to provide this direct support to FNVT which represents Tunisian cities of all sizes, and which is spearheading participatory and open approaches to urban governance,” said William Cobbett, Director, Cities Alliance. “We are particularly supportive of FNVT’s deep commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women”.

The Mayor of Tunis, Mrs. Souad Abderrahim, signed the Agreement with Cities Alliance/UNOPS in her capacity as President of the Fédération Nationale des Villes Tunisiennes (FNVT) on her official visit to Brussels. As Mayor of the Tunisian capital, she is one of few women to hold a directly elected position in the Arab world.

The signature ceremony was the first of its kind to be hosted at the new UN House in Brussels, and was hosted by Barbara Pesce Monteiro, Director of UN/UNDP's Brussels Office and UN Secretary-General's Representative towards the EU and the Belgian authorities, H.E. Ridha Ben Mosbah, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to the Kingdom of Belgium, Mrs. Souad Abderrahim, Mayor of Tunis and President of FNVT, Françoise Jacob, UNOPS Representative to the EU, Mrs. Nazek Ben Jannet Ep Elzaiani, Executive Director of FNVT, and William Cobbett Director, Cities Alliance.