

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 2014

SUMMARY COMPILATION

OF OPEN CONSULTATIONS,
SIDE EVENTS
AND PARALLEL EVENTS

During the days leading to the First Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations
Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development



United Nations



Note to the reader.
Official Report of the First session of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III is available at
www.Habitat3.org

Disclaimer: This Summary Report consists of selected excerpts from discussions held during the Habitat III PrepCom1. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations.

Cover photo: 1407 High line at the Rail Yards. View looking west along one of the Rail Track Walks by © Iwan Baan, 2014.



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OPEN CONSULTATIONS

New York, 10-15 September 2014

Organizations, major groups -including local authorities and other stakeholders- held open consultations with the Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference. A total of 10 meetings were scheduled in parallel of the PrepCom1 inter-governmental sessions.



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10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Wednesday, 10 September 2014
UNEP Conference Room

URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the session was to exchange on opinions, ideas, and expectations on the implementation of Habitat II over the last 20 years, and on the process leading to Habitat III. The session gathered representatives of several organizations involved in urban planning, design, and development in the United States (U.S.).

The Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization represents the collaboration between the United Nations, professional, academic, and other institutions to promote frameworks for sustainable development and exchanges of best practices and committed to support the Habitat Agenda. The Regional Plan Association (RPA) was established to improve the New York metropolitan region's economic health, environmental sustainability and quality of life through research, planning, and advocacy. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) serves as the voice of the architecture profession. The Center for Resilient Design, was established by the New Jersey Institute of Technology to inform and implement a resilient Post-Sandy recovery in New Jersey. The American Planning Association's New York Chapter, addresses planning issues that concern the physical, social, and economic environment in the metropolitan region of New York.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was opened by the Habitat III Secretary-General. introduction After framing the role, evolution, and mandate of UN-Habitat within the United Nations, Dr. Clos briefly addressed the envisaged outcomes of Habitat III – a new global urban agenda able to deal with the issues of development and climate change from an urban standpoint. The main issue is to understand how the process of urbanization relates and contributes to these two issues. This introduction was followed by a lively debate where participants exchanged ideas, examples, and opinions on the issues and obstacles to advance this two-year journey towards Habitat III.

EMERGING ISSUES

The Secretary-General of Habitat III initiated the conversation, highlighting that the elaboration of the New Urban Agenda should reflect how urbanization can contribute to two critical emerging issues: sustainable development and climate change.

The debate addressed several emerging issues. One of which is the need to tackle climate change beyond political boundaries, in particular through metropolitan governance which was said to be necessary but politically difficult in the U.S., as seen in the response to Hurricane Sandy. A second issue discussed was the production and consumption model, currently being discussed within the Post-2015 Development Agenda negotiations. The participants debated the main trends and consensus related to urban design and planning in the U.S. While at the time of Habitat II, the U.S. was a suburbanizing nation, this has gradually changed, and a process of “re-urbanization” and “re-centralization” is now taking place in the country. Changes were categorized in demographic terms (ageing of the “baby boomers” generation as well as migrants seeking a central urban life-style), social (increased value of time for citizens, need for improved transportation infrastructure, increased use of public space), and economic (unsustainable cost of living in the current suburban model, utility companies finding new economic models that sustain profit while reducing consumption).

The discussion then revolved around the emerging consensus in the U.S. on how to tackle urban problems. While the term “sustainability” has proved to be controversial, the notions of “livability” and “walkability” seem to be much more effective in current debates. In addition, participants agreed on the importance to present the above trends, challenges, and issues through case studies and examples of best practices to put forward the New Urban Agenda. It was said to be critical to raise awareness on the urgency of urban issues, showing time frames of urban livability, and setting priorities. Also, case studies on best practices are essential in demonstrating that good urbanization is feasible.

Regarding the issue of inequalities, participants agreed that mobility was a central issue to be addressed as a determinant to urban livability, driving access to jobs, affordable housing, and access to services. Cities with stable middle class are more resilient, while low-income communities are the most affected, having more difficulties to bounce-back from financial crisis or natural disasters.

Good practices raised include the initiative “Rebuild by design,” initiated after Hurricane Sandy, which demonstrates the role that design can play in building resilience. Resilient design has been mentioned to be a crucial topic for the New Urban Agenda, given the current trend of unplanned and spontaneous urbanization in developing cities and the increasing natural disasters. Another lesson comes from an industrial incubator district in Portland, well integrated with the transport infrastructure, but lacking facilities (such as schools), which favored mixed-use.

With regard to the situation in New York City, gentrification was seen as a key engine of change. However, whether gentrification has trickle-down effects for the majority of the population remains unanswered. Finally, challenges mentioned for low-income countries included low institutional capacity, low social capital, and weak capacity of markets to respond to demand.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms) Aliye Pekin Celik
 Organization/Institution Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization
 Position Co-Chair
 Role in the session Organizer

Full name (Mr/Ms) Lance J. Brown
 Organization/Institution American Institute of Architects
 Position President
 Role in the session Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms) James McCullar
 Organization/Institution Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization
 Position Founding Board Member
 Role in the session Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms) Thomas G. Dallesio
 Organization/Institution Center for Resilient Design
 Position Director
 Role in the session Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms) James Rausse
 Organization/Institution APA – NY Metro Chapter/ Bronx Borough
 Position President
 Role in the session Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms) Thomas K. Wright
 Organization/Institution Regional Plan Association
 Position Executive Director
 Role in the session Participant

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the debate, three main recommendations emerged. First, there is a need to promote a policy framework that guides sustainable urbanization (with timeframes, priorities, case studies, and contextualization). Secondly, it is crucial to raise awareness of a broad agenda on urbanization. This can be done by using case studies that demonstrate the possible paths to urbanization and setting the time frame showing the urgency of issues. Practical examples and real solutions are critical to demonstrate the social and economic benefits of good urbanization, as well as the need for leadership and political will. Also, it is crucial to use the most effective key words such as those gaining acceptance in the U.S. context including “resilient design,” “livability,” and “walkability”.

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Wednesday, 10 September 2014

UNEP Conference Room, 8th Floor

GENDER ISSUES

BACKGROUND

The members of The Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI) group and the women's organizations working with UN-Habitat requested this consultation to discuss how partners will participate in the Habitat III process, as well as the substantive issues related to the Conference.

Habitat II was an important meeting for women's organizations. The Secretary-General of Habitat II, Wally N'Dow, recognized the strategic role of women in housing and urban issues and provided the necessary space for women's organizations at the Conference. This was a first step towards gaining recognition. The Habitat Agenda made 133 references to women, which was a unique achievement.

AGGI is an independent advisory body established in 2012 to advise UN-Habitat on all issues related to gender matters. The objective of AGGI is to advance women's empowerment and gender equality in sustainable urban development.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The discussions were initiated by Ms. Sri Sofjan, representative of AGGI. This was followed by presentations by all participants on their work related to women and human settlements, as well as on their key areas of priority in the Habitat III process.

There were two sets of issues, the first one covering procedural matters around the composition of major groups, and the second one addressing substantive matters in relation to Habitat III, in particular how to create synergies between the urban agenda and women's agenda. Thereafter, the Secretary-General of Habitat III responded and suggested possible ways forward.

EMERGING ISSUES

The women representatives first explained their concerns regarding the major group structure. It is important that all women's groups, including the poor, engage and contribute throughout the Habitat III process, in line with an inclusive partnership structure, such as the one used during Habitat II. In addition, it is crucial that the Secretary-General of the Conference elevates women throughout the Habitat III process, address the issues they raise, and make sure they are well represented at all levels.

It was agreed that women's organizations represented a strong political constituency that has a critical role to play in this process. It was noted that women's groups are highly organized around the Post-2015 Agenda, focused on the gender goal, but also engaged in the urban goal, particularly on issues of access to land and to some extent on disaster risk reduction.

Women are claiming a more substantive role as a unique, distinct group and not just as an addition to youth and other groups. Moreover, and in reaction to allegations on the lack of evidence and research to substantiate women issues, partners have started to increase efforts in research and analysis. For example, Habitat for Humanity is working on sex-disaggregated data to analyze gender and land and tenure security in the framework of their upcoming campaign on land tenure and slum upgrading. In the future, they will be able to collect more evidence and provide more information.

Another important demand raised was to build synergies between the urban agenda and the women's agenda. The Habitat III Conference represents a unique opportunity to promote and implement such synergies.

The Secretary-General concurred that women should play a critical role throughout the Habitat III process. The partners need to join forces on the issues related to urbanization towards development. In that equation, women have an essential contribution to make.

He also emphasized the fact that while the recommendations of the Habitat Agenda were all very relevant, countries have failed to address real urban issues and urbanization patterns remain unsustainable. Habitat III should result in an implementable agenda, which should be a key concern to all partners in that process.

Other related emerging issues mentioned in the discussion included the need to strengthen the urban/rural continuum, and addressing societal changes and realities through relevant housing typologies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was suggested that a high-level thematic conference on women and urbanization might be considered before Habitat III. Such conferences will be organized on key topics so that critical issues are debated and addressed thoroughly before the Habitat III Conference. The event should focus on state-of-the-art research findings, practices, and policies in gender and urbanization.

It was suggested that a review be made on the 133 references made to women in the Habitat Agenda in order to analyze progress and gaps for the future. This is something that AGGI can take on, with support from other women's organizations.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Sri Husnaini Sofjan
Organization/Institution	AGGI and Huairou Commission Malaysia
Position	Co-Chair Working group on Habitat III & Global Policies
Role in the session	Chair

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Patricia Cortes
Organization/Institution	UN Women
Position	Programme Specialist
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Marnie Tamaki
Organization/Institution	GROOTS International
Position	Member GROOTS Canada
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Carmen Griffith
Organization/Institution	AGGI & GROOTS Jamaica
Position	Member
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Jan Peterson
Organization/Institution	Huairou Commission
Position	Chair
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Kathryn Travers
Organization/Institution	Women In Cities International (WICI)
Position	Member
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Tatiana Dwyer
Organization/Institution	United Methodist Women
Position	Member
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Jane Katz
Organization/Institution	Habitat for Humanity
Position	Member
Role in the session	Participant

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Thursday, 11 September 2014

UNEP Conference Room, 8th Floor

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

BACKGROUND

The general objective was to determine how the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) might work more closely towards Habitat III. More specifically, the question of the meeting was: "How can 'mobility' be included in the New Urban Agenda in the right way? Mobility is an increasingly universal topic; consequently, it is important to ensure that it is viewed as a cross-cutting issue.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session started with an exchange of ideas between Dr. Clos and Mr. Pourbaix (UITP), who expressed his wish to cooperate with Habitat III, and asked how Habitat III could benefit from this. Dr. Clos explained the kinds of connections he envisioned between the issue of mobility, Habitat III, and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Furthermore, Mr. Pourbaix and Dr. Clos made concrete proposals on how and when to work together in the near future.

EMERGING ISSUES

Habitat III will be linked to the debates of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Already that agenda has acknowledged that good urbanization increases economic productivity and therefore acts as an engine of development.

Good urbanization could also effectively address climate change. Besides the process of Post-2015, the UNFCCC COP in Paris next year will hopefully also reach an agreement on global action on climate change. Public transport is fundamental to achieving this. For that reason, mobility should also be included as a key theme of Habitat III because it integrates the two main issues that will be presented: (1) urbanization is development and in order to develop, good mobility policies are required; (2) urbanization should be environmentally sustainable, which is where public transportation - i.e. its reduction of per capita energy use and GHG emissions - plays a key role.

Habitat III should not be too ideological, but rather action-oriented. Habitat II achieved the Habitat Agenda, which was good and remains applicable today; however, very little action arose from it. That is why Habitat III must be approached in a more pragmatic way. The contribution of UITP would be very important to realize this ambition.

Because it promotes mobility, public transportation should be presented as a social tool as well as an instrument for economic development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Along with UITP, there are a large number of civil society partners that are currently engaged in mobility issues within the development goals. UITP can also demonstrate innovative ways to reach climate change objectives by identifying private sector companies capable of providing support. Habitat III could rely on UITP for contacts with transport operators, within cities, and with the business community.

The issue of mobility should be more visible in the global debate. In the next two years before Habitat III, a special meeting might be organized in a large city where different countries would be invited to attend debates, special seminars, or workshops about mobility.

The next UITP World Congress & Exhibition will be held in Milano from 8 to 10 June 2015, under the theme 'Smile in the City'. UITP and Habitat III could possibly join synergies addressing mobility and transport issues.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Jerome Pourbaix
Organization/Institution	UITP
Position	Head of Policy

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Alain Flausch
Organization/Institution	UITP
Position	Secretary General

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Thursday, 11 September 2014
UNEP Conference Room, 8th Floor

GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

BACKGROUND

The members of the alliance between Huairou Commission, Slum Dwellers International (SDI), and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) requested this consultation to discuss the terms on engagement of how grassroots networks could participate in the Habitat III process as well as in the substantive issues related to the conference.

The Huairou Commission was founded with the support of UNCHS Executive Director Wally N'Dow who appointed 50 women leaders to the Commission, including high level women leaders within the UN. It was the first time that an organized group of women had played a central role in the human settlements field.

WIEGO is a global research and policy network that aims to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy.

Slum Dwellers International (SDI) is a network of community-based organizations of the urban poor in 33 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, covering about 400 cities.

In order to strengthen their power and given their mutual influence, these organizations have created an alliance. The alliance is seeking to ensure that the voices of grassroots groups are heard in the process of Habitat III.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

This Open Consultation started with the presentation of the three organizations that form the alliance. The presentation was followed by an open brainstorm, led by the Secretary-General of the Conference, Dr. Joan Clos, for concrete actions.

EMERGING ISSUES

The main focus of this alliance is to get involved with local governments, community mapping, and to build networks in order to enable citywide, national, and regional policy dialogues. Huairou Commission, for example, uses a participatory data collection that was done within the partnership with UNDP, "Seeing Beyond the State" for the gender impact of corruption, and evaluated that social ability mechanisms work within urban areas.

Feedback from local leaders on the ground inspired the idea to connect on the global level. Their alliance already produced a document entitled "Grassroots Principals and Priorities," which will be the starting point to build a more substantial role in the Habitat III process.

There is a strong concern regarding the major groups structure of past UN conferences. There is a fear of diverting from partnerships that already gained some traction, and they expressed their disagreement upon the existence of the group "others" to gather voices of grassroots communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a strong need to build a formal dialogue space for grassroots organizations that is different from that of NGOs. The request was made to create a formal advisory group, and/or a thematic group, in preparation of the Habitat III Conference to put the local leaders together. It would be interesting to organize thematic meetings with grassroots organizations, the alliance is confident that they would be able to gather leaders from approximately 70 to 80 countries.

The group defined a grassroots women leader as a woman who works on issues affecting her own community. In the Huairou Commission, the term “grassroots” usually refers to someone from an economically marginalized community. Grassroots women leaders are leading networks and federations of self-help groups, cooperatives and other community based groups, often at a large scale. There should also be an agreement on the definition of “grassroots groups,” and how we can have the same concept translated effectively in the other UN languages.

The alliance should also find a name for itself, in order to reflect the reason the three organizations came together. They suggested “Grassroots Supporters Alliance”, which is to be confirmed.

The Secretary General of Habitat III raised the question about the (under-) representation of these groups in non-English speaking countries and how to reach these groups. WIEGO reacted stating that since their last General Assembly four years ago, huge investments were made to translate/ interpret in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese through a large number of activities in Brazil, Africa, and South America. Some partnerships even introduced the Russian language.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Jan Patterson
Organization/Institution	Huairou Commission
Position	Member
Role in the session	Moderator

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Rachael Wyant
Organization/Institution	Huairou Commission
Position	Member
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Celine D’Cruz
Organization/Institution	Slum Dwellers International, India/Taiwan
Position	Member
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Sally Roever
Organization/Institution	WIEGO
Position	Sector Specialist
Role in the session	Participant

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Thursday, 11 September 2014

UNEP Conference Room, 8th Floor

PUBLIC SPACES

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the session was to hear opinions, ideas, and expectations on the role of public space in supporting sustainable urbanization. The session gathered representatives of several organizations involved in research and advocacy centred on public spaces as essential engines of economic development and citizens' well-being. These included representatives from: 1/ Future of Places forum, a partnership between UN-Habitat and the Project for Public Spaces, established in order to support the issue of public space and place-making in city planning; 2/ Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI), a network of community-based organizations of the urban poor in 33 countries and; 3/ Real Estate Developers and Investors (U.S.), which advocates for smart growth and sustainable solutions, and supports improving neighbourhoods by fighting urban sprawl.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was opened by the Habitat III Secretariat. It was followed by an introduction of participants. Michael Mehaffey outlined the ten key principles necessary for the creation of successful public spaces, that have been agreed during the Future of Places conference series; Christopher Leinberger introduced the role that the real estate industry can play in the renewed role of place-making; Celine D'Cruz and Pietro Garau introduced the issues of governance and equity, which Trupti Amritwar further elaborated with a case study in Mumbai. Finally, Dr. Clos briefly outlined the past context of Habitat I and Habitat II and presented his vision for Habitat III. This was followed by a lively debate on the importance of public spaces to guide sustainable urbanization within the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the climate change agenda.

EMERGING ISSUES

The discussion began by highlighting the main issue at stake: that public space is under threat. The debate has revolved around two main trends: firstly, the privatization of the public realm, which includes the rise of gated communities; and secondly, the current trend of unsustainable urbanization, which is not providing sufficient public spaces. While in planned cities, public space accounts for 30 - 50% on the land, it makes up only 2.5% of the land in unplanned settlements, mostly slum areas. Participants then highlighted the social, economic, and environmental benefits of public spaces. Public space was emphasized as a powerful tool to achieve equity, in the current context of increasing privatization where even housing becomes a commodity. The case study of Mumbai illustrates the crucial role of civil society and communities, ultimately showing that the provision of public spaces is also a matter of governance.

The participants then pointed out that the role of public space is now increasingly recognized in the United States. After decades of anti-urban policies and resulting urban sprawl, many cities are now witnessing a process of "re-concentration." Policy-makers have understood that place matters, and that public space is the set location where economic activities take place. The current suburbanization occurring in developing countries should be halted.

The discussion then moved to the issue of policy implementation. The lack of implementation has been the greatest shortcoming of the Habitat II Conference. One of the priorities is to define a set of incentives for governments and policy-makers and to think about how to transform ideas into action.

In terms of management of public spaces, the discussion has revolved around the role of the private sector and the real estate industry. Several examples in New York City, including Bryant Park and the High Line have been mentioned as best practices of value-sharing. However, the discussants have pointed out that the private sector is not aware that good quality public spaces add value, particularly in developing countries. In addition to the aversion of the private sector to investing in public space, governments do not have the financial resources to expropriate land from private actors to provide public space. The challenge is to deliver the message that the provision of public space is profitable, or at least advantageous, for everyone.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Several recommendations emerged from the debate. Learning from the mistakes of Habitat II, a strategy to transform ideas into actions is needed. Besides the need to acknowledge the role of the civil society, the Habitat III conference will have to stress the importance of incentives for the private sector. Such a strategy will require a change in the language with the aim to persuade both governments and the private sector that investing in public spaces is advantageous for everyone. The involvement of the private sector will require re-educating the entire real estate world and enriching the dialogue between the urban planning and real estate disciplines.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Michael Mehaffey
Organization/Institution	Faculty of Architecture at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands/U.S.
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Pietro Garau
Organization/Institution	National Institute of Urbanism, Italy
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Celine D'Cruz
Organization/Institution	Slum Dwellers International, India/Taiwan
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Trupti Amritwar
Organization/Institution	Mumbai Environmental Social Network, India
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Christopher Leinberger
Organization/Institution	LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors, U.S.

3:00 – 5:00 PM
Friday, 12 September 2014
UNESCO Conference Room

CIVIL SOCIETY

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this session was to discuss the importance of a platform, in the context of the Habitat III Conference, representing all stakeholders and partners in order to make them part of the strategic and planning process.

The Civil Society Planning Committee was established by a core group of partners in New York a few months ago but is conceived as a continuation of the Partners Committee established for the Habitat II Conference, where the civil society took a very active role in the negotiations and the drafting of the Habitat Agenda.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was opened by Jan Peterson, Chair of the Coordinating Council, Huairou Commission, who outlined the importance of a well-defined and accessible partners' platform for all major groups and beyond at Habitat III. Felix Dodds gave an overview on the participatory partners' process at Habitat II, its configuration, role, and influence. Dr. Clos emphasized the need for a meaningful partner's engagement process for Habitat III. All participants conveyed their perspectives and the challenges ahead for such process to be inclusive.

EMERGING ISSUES

Participants reiterated their support to the New Urban Agenda with a focus on implementation. The Habitat Agenda being a non-binding instrument, partners need to find accountability mechanisms for Members States.

The poor level of implementation of the Habitat Agenda demonstrates that the real issues have not been addressed and have lacked contextualization. Dr. Clos outlined the example of housing. While housing was addressed in quantitative terms through housing provision, the Habitat Agenda failed to consider housing in the wider context. Countries have agreed to build more housing units but they have often failed to consider that process in relation to access to land, improved mobility, and job creation, which are key drivers of development.

Another crucial issue that needs to be addressed within the context of the PrepComs and Habitat III is level of participation of major groups in the negotiations to define the New Urban Agenda. An inclusive platform is needed for the Conference and thereafter to implement the Agenda. That platform should not only promote dialogue but should propose very concrete and practical urban solutions to be implemented by all stakeholders on the basis of agreed terms.

Financing the participatory process and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda should be a key concern to be addressed from the beginning of the Habitat III process.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms) Felix Dodds
 Organization/Institution Communitas
 Position Advisor

Full name (Mr/Ms) Chris Grove
 Organization/Institution ESCR-Net
 Position Director

Full name (Mr/Ms) Jane Katz
 Organization/Institution Habitat for Humanity International
 Position Director

Full name (Mr/Ms) Pamela Ranson
 Organization/Institution Metropolitan College / Huairou Commission
 Position Professor

Full name (Mr/Ms) N. Vinod Chandra Menon
 Organization/Institution Huairou Commission
 Position Professor

Full name (Mr/Ms) Jan Peterson
 Organization/Institution Huairou Commission
 Position Chair

Full name (Mr/Ms) Margo Lazaro
 Organization/Institution Global Family / International Council of Women
 Position Co/chair NGO Committee on Sustainable Development

Full name (Mr/Ms) Tatiana Dwyer
 Organization/Institution United Methodist Women
 Position Executive

Full name (Mr/Ms) Eugenie Birch
 Organization/Institution Penn Institute for Urban Research and World Urban Campaign
 Position Co-Director/Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to move forward in setting up a partners' platform, it is essential to learn from other conferences, particularly from Rio+20, the recent UN Department of Public Information partners events, and UNEA (United Nations Environmental Assembly), also taking stock of the work done by the World Urban Campaign.

The implementation process has to be addressed efficiently. This can be done through several channels: firstly through possibly grounding the document in human rights obligations in order to link it to obligations of Member States; and secondly by creating committees linked to parliamentary processes in order to review and monitor the implementation of the Habitat III Agenda at the national level. This would pressure governments to make effective decisions and to adopt pertinent measures translated in financial terms.

A funding proposal should be prepared and put forward to major donors to support the participatory and implementation process for and after Habitat III.

Civil society organizations should also prepare a narrative on the successes and failures of the participatory process at Habitat II in order to make recommendations on the Habitat III process. The goal is to generate a truly inclusive process that will produce an inclusive and implementable new agenda.

Social media tools should be used to build buzz around these issues, to cultivate dialogue, and present tangible solutions to the public in order to engage all partners towards implementing the new agenda on the ground.

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Monday, 15 September 2014
Conference Room 2

UN SYSTEM --- COMMITTEE FOR **HABITAT III**

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the interagency meeting was to exchange on the roadmap for the Habitat III Conference, including the PrepComs, and the engagement process at the national and regional levels.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The meeting was opened by the Secretary-General of Habitat III, followed by a presentation by the Coordinator of the Habitat III Secretariat, on the current preparation for the Conference process, in particular on the different PrepComs.

Key points were highlighted with an emphasis on monitoring and implementation in order to achieve efficient results. Research and data were presented as fundamental to outline and demonstrate new emerging challenges and to engage all stakeholders. The proposed conceptual framework of the Habitat III process was presented through four entries: engagement, knowledge, operation, and policy.

The political context was discussed, in particular the host country nomination process and the composition of the Bureau Elect. Further, UN agencies were able to express and exchange their views on upcoming events.

EMERGING ISSUES

It is crucial to anchor the Habitat III process in the context of the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the climate change negotiations. In that context, there is a strong need for a collective strategy of UN agencies to address the common agenda. The interagency group meeting held at the Seventh session of the World Urban Forum in Medellin was a stepping stone in that process to put forward a task force for UN agencies.

The importance of reinforcing partnerships initiated during Habitat II was also stressed. Ministerial forums created after Habitat II should be used as political platform to engage stakeholders at the regional level. MINURVI has been a successful platform for Latin America and the Caribbean. It also established the need for a structured coordination with concrete deadlines for regional reporting in particular.

Participants discussed the current urbanization challenges and issues from the perspectives of their agencies and programmes. Central issues to be addressed include: urban inequalities in the context of the global financial crisis, and the growing role of local authorities in development. Participants underlined the particular importance of social housing, access to land, as well as migration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Coordination is vitally needed between UN agencies towards an effective Habitat III Conference preparation. In particular, it is crucial to build a consensus to establish common views on urbanization issues, and how they will factor into development.

Habitat III Secretariat will engage in a dialogue with other UN agencies regarding the main directions of the Conference, articulated around the latest thinking on a 'designed' and 'guided' urbanization. It is particularly important to be on the cutting edge and to propose innovative approaches to urbanization challenges. A continuous dialogue and exchange will be strategic to establish commonalities and agencies' contributions to the process. The Interagency Task Force should be collaborative and innovative. It should also address upcoming challenges, particularly investment options for implementation.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Chris Richter
Organization/Institution	IOM
Position	Programme Specialist, Associate Migration Officer
Role in the session	Participant
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Daniel Schensul
Organization/Institution	UNFPA
Position	Technical Specialist
Role in the session	Participant
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Diana Acosta
Organization/Institution	IFAD
Position	Programme officer
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Zak Buchse
Organization/Institution	IFAD
Position	Programme specialist
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Mariann Kovacs
Organization/Institution	FAO, New York Office
Position	Senior Liaison Officer
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Ricardo Jordan
Organization/Institution	UNECLAC
Position	Chief Unit of Human Settlements
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Gulnara Roll
Organization/Institution	UNECE
Position	Head, Housing and Land Management Unit
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Elliott Harris
Organization/Institution	UNEP, New York Office
Position	Head of regional Office for North America
Role in the session	Participant

2:00 – 4:00 PM
Monday, 15 September 2014
UNESCO Conference Room

THE CITY WE NEED

BACKGROUND

From its inception in 2010, the World Urban Campaign (WUC) has moved from a network of organizations united by the same purpose towards a more structured platform dedicated to advocacy and knowledge sharing. Having recognized the strategic importance of the Habitat III Conference in elevating the urban agenda, the WUC has gradually asserted itself as a consensus-building platform towards a New Urban Agenda.

At the 7th WUC Steering Committee meeting (March 2012), UN-Habitat Executive Director invited the WUC partners to play a key role in the Habitat III process by bringing about a paradigm shift in the understanding and conception of sustainable urbanization. He also requested that the Campaign help to convey an urgent message to decisions-makers and the public about the need for new and innovative models of urbanization, and also to serve as the partners' platform for the Habitat III Conference.

As the partners' platform for engaging Habitat Agenda Partners in the Habitat III process, the Campaign must be seen as an integral part of the preparatory process for Habitat III.

This session was meant to exchange with Campaign members on how to effectively influence the Habitat III process, the Conference itself, and its outcomes, in order to ensure that an inclusive and positive vision is realized.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The consultation was opened by Dr. Joan Clos, Secretary-General of the Habitat III Conference. He discussed the Habitat III roadmap, noting the developments and the key steps of the preparatory period leading up to the Conference.

He emphasized the importance of having a positive and productive relationship with all partners, and the need to link climate change, culture, migration and the private sector within the New Urban Agenda. He also reminded participants that the global model of urbanization that we currently have is not sustainable, encouraging the Campaign members to assist in transforming the current paradigm.

Professor Eugenie Birch, chair of the WUC presented an overview of the process and the role that World Urban Campaign partners can play in the Habitat III process, as well as the emerging issues from the Campaign members. She explained how the WUC has evolved over time, moving from two global campaigns initiated as a follow-up to the Habitat II Conference. It has built from a think-tank of committed partners and has currently three main functions: an advocacy campaign to change our urban future, a think tank on sustainable urbanization, and a partners' consensus-building platform towards a New Urban Agenda. Each participant then framed their concerns and recommendations for the Habitat III process, and discussed the way forward with Dr. Clos.

EMERGING ISSUES

While the Habitat Agenda was a positive step, it was unfortunately not widely implemented. Dr. Clos noted that two of the major problems that we have seen since Habitat II include the unsustainable and inaccessible nature of urbanization.

The participants then shared their views on the emerging issues. One concern was about the lack of cultural mapping and the lack of a holistic approach to urbanization. The participants noted the need to focus on cities as cultural and social centres, rather than just as economic drivers.

They expressed concern that the Post-2015 Development Agenda outlines the emerging issues for the coming decades, yet there remains a lack of information on the concrete impact for local authorities. They further insisted that it should be possible for local authorities and NGOs to participate in the dialogue and in the outcome process.

Campaign partners noted that the key elements of a participatory process include both the opportunity to comment through dialogues, and for local constituencies to play a key role in the implementation process. CNJUR (Colegio Nacional de Jurisprudencia Urbanística - Mexico) raised concern about the shortage of legal aspects in terms of conventions on rights and obligations, noting that the urban sector is lagging behind the environmental movement in terms of legally binding conventions. In addition to the issue of how best to incorporate research data, other concerns that were raised included the need to take the "right to the city," children's perspectives, and equity into account throughout the process in order to ensure that these perspectives are represented in the final document.

Dr. Clos urged participants to avoid a too broad approach to urbanization. He noted that all of the different stakeholders are important, but that the Campaign should analyze the fundamental aspects of urbanization and the core differences between good and bad urbanization.

Finally, participants agreed on the need to have further meetings to discuss these concerns and to clarify the way forward.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Eugenie Birch
Organization/Institution	Penn Institute for Urban Research and World Urban Campaign
Position	Co-Director/Chair
Role in the session	Chair

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Balac-Saveljic Branislava
Organization/Institution	Committee on Human Settlements, NY
Position	Consultant
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Rene Hohmann
Organization/Institution	Cities Alliance
Position	Senior Urban Specialist
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Pablo Aguilar González
Organization/Institution	CNJUR Mexico
Position	Urban Lawyer
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Carlos de Freitas
Organization/Institution	FDMV
Position	Head of Programme
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Jane Katz
Organization/Institution	Habitat for Humanity, U.S.
Position	Programme Director
Role in the session	Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Sri Sofjan
Organization/Institution	Huairou Commission and AGGI, U.S. and Indonesia
Position	AGGI Co-Chair WG on Habitat 3 - Global Policies
Role in the session	Participant

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants emphasized the need to establish a comprehensive communication strategy around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing what they are about, how they relate to Habitat III, and how to effectively lobby on this. It was suggested that the WUC platform could be used for this, and that communication should generally tie Habitat III in with the Post-2015 Development Agenda. CNJUR suggested that one goal could be to create a declaration on urban citizens' rights and to recognize, guarantee, respect, and take accountability for these rights in a cross-disciplinary manner.

In order to better manage all of the information and different points of view about urbanization, participants suggested that the partners need a framework for stakeholders to submit their position and views in order to contribute to a new urban paradigm towards the New Urban Agenda. The City We Need initiated by the WUC should constitute a good base for that framework. They also noted the need to set up dialogues around urban/rural linkages, and to work around indicators in order to assess progress and trends and to be able to monitor the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Finally it was proposed that the PrepComs be given concrete media coverage to reflect the ideas being heard from non-Member States. Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) suggested that the Campaign must put more pressure on national governments through the media in order to disseminate a stronger message and to ensure that urban issues receive attention. Citiscope volunteered to launch a project around objective reporting by highly trained journalists, the outputs of which other media outlets could use. Broadcasting this information publicly would update people outside of the process, thereby widely informing the international public and better facilitating inclusive dialogue.

Full name (Mr/Ms) Neal Peirce & Ms. Farley Peters
Organization/Institution Citiscope, U.S.
Position Editors
Role in the session Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms) Shulamith Keonig
Organization/Institution PDHRE, U.S.
Position Founder
Role in the session Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms) Duane Kissick
Organization/Institution Global Mayors Forum
Position Executive Chair
Role in the session Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms) Leah Lee
Organization/Institution World Vision International, U.S.
Position Advocacy Advisor
Role in the session Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms) Maruxa Cardama & Matthew Boms
Organization/Institution Communitas Coalition
Position Coordinators
Role in the session Participant

Full name (Mr/Ms) Jeffrey Soule
Organization/Institution American Planning Association, ICOMOS
Position Director
Role in the session Participant

3:00 – 6:00 PM

Monday, 15 September 2014

Conference Room 2

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR HABITAT III

BACKGROUND

The Habitat III Conference will be a key moment for the international agenda of local and regional governments. The aim of this session was to gather main questions, concerns, and comments of local governments and their associations through the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda and towards Habitat III (GTF).

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session began with welcoming remarks by the Minister Counsellor Fernando Fernández-Arias, from the Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN. Subsequently Ms. Jacqueline Moustache-Belle, Mayor of Victoria and Co-President of UCLG, elaborated on the priorities of local governments for Habitat III, after which Mr. Lawrence Yule, Mayor of Hastings, President of Local Government New Zealand, and Chairperson of CLGF, emphasized the importance of localizing the development agenda.

A first exchange of ideas took place among local governments and partners. Then, the Secretary-General of Habitat III, Dr. Joan Clos joined, and after setting the stage on the priorities of Habitat III Conference, local authorities raised their questions and expressed concerns and comments.

EMERGING ISSUES

Local actors are at the center of the paradigm shift, and the new global urban agenda will only be successful if it is well implemented at the local level. Underlining their role as drivers of change, the present local governments and their associations stressed the importance of being involved in the definition, implementation, and monitoring of the sustainable development agenda. This includes strengthening partnerships by mobilizing all actors

and governance systems to put strong policy frameworks into place; reinforcing the city-to-city cooperation system for building capacities; and participating as official actors and contributors to the Habitat III Conference.

One of the main concerns during the session was that the Habitat Agenda had not been implemented. The commitment of Habitat II to support local governments and strengthen local capacities to develop “sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world” certainly saw some progress, but it failed to achieve mass support or to fully mobilize local capacities and potentials.

Goal 11: “Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” is one of the proposed 17 SDGs. It is an important achievement and testament to the successful advocacy of, among others, the Global Taskforce and its partners throughout 2013 and 2014.

How the Post-2015 Development Agenda processes, the Climate Change Summit, and Habitat III can be linked in the next year (building the Habitat III Conference on the outcomes of the Post-2015 Development Agenda) is a question that has been strongly solicited throughout the consultation by local authorities and the Secretary-General of Habitat III.

The following are general concerns expressed by the local governments and partners:

Local authorities should fully participate in the implementation and decision-making processes, mainly taking place at the national and global level.

Local authorities need adequate financial, human, and institutional resources as well as data and statistical approaches to successfully implement a new global urban agenda. These resources need to be strengthened at the local level to create a decent decentralization system. Furthermore, the need for balanced responsibilities between the institutional authorities of large and small cities and of urban and rural regions was underlined.

Finally, some local governments expressed their concerns that international organizations, multilateral actors, and the UN system, still do not prioritize on the key role that local authorities should play in development. This was their experience at both the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul and at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, despite the acknowledgement of their role in delivering sustainable development.

The following challenges for the local government representatives were raised:

Central governments often do not allocate adequate financial resources to local governments, which makes it difficult for local authorities to meet their responsibilities.

Further, local authorities experience interferences by national government in local governance, in both decision-making and in the implementation process.

Finally, local governments expressed the need to develop better infrastructure in rural areas to curb rural to urban migration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking stock of the Habitat II Conference mechanism for the participation of local authorities and non-governmental partners, participants made concrete suggestions for Habitat III. In particular, they recommended that the Global Taskforce be used as a basis for the constitution of a group representing local authorities and their partners.

Regarding the entry points for substantive debates at Habitat III, sectoral approaches such as those used at Habitat II and thereafter should be avoided. There should be a clear focus on urbanization, urban planning and design, as well as the governance aspects of cities and territories. Also, instead of focusing on decentralization, the emphasis should be on empowering local authorities.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Fernando Fernández-Arias
Organization/Institution	Permanent Mission of Spain at the UN
Position	Ministre Counsellor
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Jacqueline Moustache-Belle
Organization/Institution	United Cities and Local Governments UCLG
Position	Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles Co-president UCLG
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Lawrence Yule
Organization/Institution	Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
Position	Mayor of Hastings, President of Local Government New Zealand, Chairperson of CLGF
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Mr. Josep Roig
Organization/Institution	UCLG
Position	Secretary General of UCLG

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Alain Le Saux
Organization/Institution	Metropolis
Position	Secretary General
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Annemarie Jorritsme-Lebbink
Organization/Institution	Municipality of Almere (The Netherlands)
Position	Mayor
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Cllr. Richard Kemp C.B.E.
Organization/Institution	Member of the GTF
Position	City Council of Liverpool (United Kingdom)
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Frédéric Vallier
Organization/Institution	Council of European Municipalities and Regions
Position	Secretary General
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Amiri Juma Nondo
Organization/Institution	Member of the GTF
Position	Mayor of Morogoro (Tanzania)
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Ronan Dantec
Organization/Institution	Member of the GTF
Position	Vice-President of the Sustainable Development Commission of Senate, France Spokesperson UCLG Climate
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Yunus Arian
Organization/Institution	ICLEI
Position	Policy Director
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Jochen Mattern
Organization/Institution	DeLoG
Position	Manager, DP activities

SIDE — EVENTS

New York, 17-18 September 2014

PrepCom1 hosted a range of 12 side events in order to feed the preparations towards the final Habitat III outcome.



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8:30 – 9:45 AM

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

Conference Room D

LINKING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO A NEW URBAN AGENDA —

BACKGROUND

Efficient mobility in cities creates economic opportunities and social integration, enables trade, and facilitates access to markets and services. Public transport and sustainable mobility in particular create benefits at the local level. They also support national policy objectives, notably in terms of economic development and climate change mitigation.

Against a background of new urban forms, technology innovation, new lifestyles, and business strategies, the urban mobility landscape is changing fast, with new players having an increasingly important role, creating new opportunities and challenges for the governance of cities. Sustainable mobility creates value at the local level and thus supports the establishment of frameworks helping cities generate their own resources for the funding of their infrastructures and services.

For these reasons, mobility should contribute to a new urban paradigm and the definition of the New Urban Agenda for Habitat III. This event is meant to share approaches from transport institutions on how to optimize the contribution of mobility policies to the success delivery of Habitat III's New Urban Agenda.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The side event consisted of three thematic presentations, one statement and a question and answer (Q&A) session. The event was opened by Mr. Michael Replogle, Managing Director for Policy and Founder at the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), with his presentation featuring a global 'high shift' scenario (i.e. the high projection of a possible shift in transport mode from light-duty vehicles to public and non-motorized transit). He then introduced Mr. Jerome Pourbaix, Head of Policy at the International Association of Public Transport (UITP).

Mr. Pourbaix's presentation illustrated the contribution of public transport to growth, jobs, and the attractiveness of cities. The third speaker, Mr. Cornie Huizenga, Secretary-General of the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT), introduced the 'Results Framework on Sustainable Transport'. The last statement was given by Ms. Janet de Luna Jimenez, Chief of Advisors at the Vice-minister of Urban Development and Housing, Mexico, featuring urban transportation policies in Mexico. The session concluded with a lively Q&A session.

EMERGING ISSUES

Mr. Michael Replogle of ITDP opened up the session highlighting several discussion topics: how to manage climate change, how to advance equitable and environmentally sustainable economic and social development, and how to manage unprecedented urbanization. To address those questions, he presented the findings of a new study co-authored by ITDP and UC Davis. It is the first study to examine how major changes in transport infrastructure and transit system investments worldwide would affect urban passenger transport emissions as well as the mobility of different income groups.

The study concludes that a high-transit, high-non-motorized-vehicle scenario that provides similar total mobility (in passenger kilometres) to a baseline, more car-dominated scenario, is likely to be more equitable, less expensive to construct and operate over the next 40 years, and to sharply reduce CO2 emissions. Under this 'high shift' scenario, up to \$114 trillion dollars could be saved from 2010 to 2050 and used in other areas such as housing, education, food, etc.

The discussion of linking public transportation to a New Urban Agenda was carried forward by Mr. Jerome Pourbaix of UITP, who covered aspects of economic strength, mobility, human capital, physical capital, global appeal, and quality of life. To give a few examples, the returns of investment in public transportation projects exceed three to four times their initial investments. Furthermore, if the share of public transportation is doubled, daily mobility provides 30 minutes more of physical exercise, which helps reduce coronary heart disease and obesity (-50%) and hypertension disease (-30%). All the examples demonstrate that public transport is a necessary and central element in a New Urban Agenda.

Presenting the Results Framework on Sustainable Transport, Mr. Cornie Huizenga of SLoCaT, described the potential contribution of sustainable land-based transport to the realization of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. Six targets regarding urban access, rural access, national access and regional connectivity, road safety, air pollution and human health, and greenhouse emissions are laid out in the Framework, together with more specific indicators.

At the country level, Ms. Janet de Luna Jimenez shared the current and future policies of urban development in Mexico, including initiatives on improving urban mobility. Mexico strongly promotes the urban agenda. She stated that Habitat III would be one of the most important opportunities to promote sustainable urban transport.

During the Q&A session, the importance of political will, the issue of the ‘mini van’ (i.e. largely unregulated, privately-operated, fuel-inefficient vehicles that service the urban public in many cities in the developing world as an alternative to public transport that is either too expensive, insufficiently extensive or nonexistent), and the connection of public transport, land use and housing policies, were further discussed among the speakers and the audiences.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Michael Replogle
Organization/Institution	Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
Position	Managing Director for Policy and Founder
Role in the session	Organizer
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Jerome Pourbaix
Organization/Institution	International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
Position	Head of Policy
Role in the session	Organizer
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Cornie Huizenga
Organization/Institution	Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCaT)
Position	Secretary General
Role in the session	Organizer
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Janet de Luna Jimenez
Organization/Institution	Vice-Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Mexico
Position	Chief of Advisors
Role in the session	Panelist

RECOMMENDATIONS

Three main recommendations evolved from this event.

Firstly, the study by ITDP and UC Davis demonstrated the benefits of public transportation by showing how a shift to a high-transit, high-non-motorized-vehicle scenario would provide a similar mobility level to a car-dominated scenario (but cost less to build and operate) and reduce CO2 emissions sharply.

Secondly, SLoCaT endorsed all six main proposed SDGs targets on rural access, urban access, national access and regional connectivity, road safety, air pollution and human health, and greenhouse emissions, to realize the potential of the proposed SDGs.

Thirdly, and from the audience, the importance of political will in carrying forward sustainable transportation as part of a New Urban Agenda was stressed and echoed.

8:30 – 9:30 AM

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

Conference Room A

SERVICES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND INCLUSION IN AN URBANIZING WORLD —

EMERGING ISSUES

At the outset, a point was made not just to look at cities but to consider the more complex nature of urban areas and zoom in at different scale levels: 1) individual settlements; 2) urban agglomerations; 3) regional urban systems.

Urbanization is no longer a phenomenon that is limited to “mega cities.” Speakers argued that in order to achieve a more effective management of urbanization, it is necessary to better understand the connections between urban centres and urban settlements. In connection to this, it was re-emphasized that the fastest growing cities are the small to medium sized cities, though they don’t receive the necessary attention.

Inter-connection plays a critical role in avoiding isolation of human settlements, and therefore exchanges of goods and services, as well as good communications, should be enforced. More attention also needs to be paid to migration. It was argued that urban governance models need to facilitate bridging the urban/rural divide and the more complex nature of urban agglomerations.

Research presented illustrated that the above also requires a redefinition of urban poverty, which is not necessarily linked to slums alone, but often also occurs in peri-urban areas and villages that have been absorbed in expanding urban areas. There was a call for more knowledge and the need for better disaggregated data in order to fully understand the configurations of urban poverty.

The results of the WAVE study presented showed that the urban poor suffer higher health risks, which was labelled the ‘urban health penalty.’ According to the speaker, there are two types of factors that influence these situations: the physical environment (lack of safety, lack of recreation and a large number of vacant buildings and homes) and the social environment (lack of positive adult relations). Policies and programs on improving health should take into account both of these factors, understanding the gender variations and acknowledging that these problems do not belong only to low-income countries, but are a reality in a wide variety of cities.

It was further explained that poverty has five dimensions (income poverty, health poverty, education poverty, personal insecurity, and disempowerment), which compose the cycle that results in exclusion. A case was made to ensure that improved tenure security and access to health services be included in poverty reduction strategies.

During the discussion, reference was made to the unfinished business of the MDGs, given that the gap between slums and the formal sector continues to grow without equal access to resources and services.

BACKGROUND

This event examined service delivery and social protection in the context of rapid urban transitions. The urban advantage is disappearing for some populations, secondary and tertiary cities are struggling to find the resource base and capacity to support residents amidst rapid growth, and rural populations are often excluded from development in urban areas. This event built on the conclusions of the ICPD Beyond 2014 review on urbanization, experiences of urbanization in the BRICS countries, and recent efforts around urban maternal and newborn health to propose new directions for realizing access, rights, and inclusion in an urbanizing world.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was organized by UNFPA who set the scene for the discussion, emphasizing the importance of thinking at different scales. Several presentations by the World Bank, Arrow, and John Hopkins University presented findings of their research related respectively to the need to re-conceptualize urban poverty within urban agglomerations, health challenges specific to urban areas, and the relationships between poverty, health, education, and exclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a need to remind everyone that cities are about people. Social inclusion should be central to the discussion on urbanization. It is key in securing human rights while encouraging development, with a positive impact on urban health conditions. Sustainable urbanization should be inclusive, with sufficient attention on the urban poor, not just focusing on “big projects for big cities.”

Urban planning and urban management needs to address the complexity of urban agglomerations and needs to be value-based, have a focus on human dignity, and give up on binary thinking. It should be acknowledged that migration needs to be factored in adequately, as it drives urban expansion.

Better data and technological innovations are needed to help city planners understand the complexity of urban agglomeration, as a necessary condition to work towards more inclusive and sustainable urbanization.

Research, evidence, and solid legal structures are key points to a better city governance and development.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen
Organization/Institution	UNFPA
Position	Deputy Executive Director

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Dr. Gayatri Singh
Organization/Institution	World Bank Group
Position	Senior Urban Development Consultant

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Sivananthi Thanenthiran
Organization/Institution	Arrow
Position	Executive Director

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Kristin Mmari
Organization/Institution	John Hopkins University
Position	Professor

1:30 – 2:30 PM
Wednesday, 17 September 2014
Conference Room A

CITIES THAT WORK FOR EVERYONE: INCLUSION, PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

BACKGROUND

The session was set up to facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the non-negotiable issues of an urban agenda that grassroots women, communities, and local authorities can all agree to. It touched upon best practices in partnership models, urban planning, and budgeting that make cities more inclusive, resilient and responsive to community needs and priorities. These best practices need to be brought into the process towards Habitat III as points of reference. The session was also based on the need to link the Habitat III New Urban Agenda to discussions around localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was organized by the Huairou Commission, in collaboration with Shack/Slum Dwellers International, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and the UCLG.

Three speakers introduced the issues focusing on the institutionalization of the role of communities in local governance and women's empowerment; the importance of including the informal economy and informal employment as key contributors to development and urbanization; and the importance of ensuring grassroots data collection to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The session came to the end with Q&A and some concluding remarks commenting on progress made so far with regard to the New Urban Agenda, and available tools for a more sustainable process of urbanization.

EMERGING ISSUES

The session argued successfully that grassroots organizations-in particular those led by women-are innovative and continuously invent practical solutions that make cities livable, while working increasingly with local governments. Good practices show that if these organizations can formalize their relationship with local government, and are fully included in local governance, a more inclusive urbanization is possible.

Several emerging challenges were highlighted. Urban growth and planned urbanization must result in protection and redistribution of assets, minimizing the gap between rich and poor. This should also increase productivity, strengthen social networks, and reduce vulnerability to climate change and disasters. Speakers stressed that poverty and exclusion, along with gender inequalities, make the process of urbanization and development of cities slower and unsustainable. If women are excluded from the decision-making processes, the development agenda will lack the necessary perspective.

Another issue brought forward during the session is the lack of consideration of informal employment (defined as "all economic activities, units or workers not regulated or protected by the State"), which is often absent in official statistics.

Informal workers should have some kind of legal identity in cities, and the rights that come along with this. This should include the right to take part in urban planning process. Urban planning should give equal attention to where people live as well as to where these people work.

Speakers also advocated providing communities with more facilities and opportunities to share their voices. Their messages will be better heard and more convincing if constructed around data collected by the communities themselves. There was also a clear call for open data.

A final key issue raised was the emerging contradiction between a strengthened role for mayors and local authorities since Habitat II (and the acknowledgement of the importance of mayors during the first Prepcom) next to a seeming growing trend of global recentralization on the other.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants recommended giving voice to local communities and integrating them formally into local governance structures, which will facilitate more inclusive urbanization.

Women organizations in particular should be part of the planning and strategic process, transforming women from beneficiaries into active stakeholders.

Networking amongst grassroots organizations can help to promote good practices of new governance models.

Open data is essential to stronger collaboration and more balanced governance models. Data collected by local communities themselves should be integrated into these models. This can strengthen monitoring, accountability, and promote policies that build on communities' needs.

New governance models should help ensure a people-centered approach that allows decisions to be taken as close as possible to the communities concerned.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Relinda Sosa
Organization/Institution	GROOTS Peru
Position	Regional Delegate
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Sally Roever
Organization/Institution	WIEGO
Position	Urban Research Director
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Mara Forbes
Organization/Institution	Shack/Slum Dwellers International
Position	Programme Officer
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Emilia Saiz
Organization/Institution	UCLG
Position	Advisor

1:30 – 2:30 PM

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

Conference Room C

PRIORITIES FOR **HABITAT III** IN THE UNECE REGION – COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) includes five committees, such as the Committee on Housing and Land Management. Its objectives are to improve housing, urban and land governance, and to promote sustainable housing in the UNECE region. It also serves as a formal inter-governmental platform for dialogue on housing and land management. The outcomes of this intergovernmental dialogue are used to assist policy formulation and implementation.

The goals of UNECE in this session are threefold: to illustrate what this UNECE Committee does, to illustrate the main outcomes of its work, and to demonstrate how this work could contribute to this Habitat III process.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session contained three presentations: the first one was given by Ms. Szolgayova, chair of this event, who provided general background information about UNECE Region - Committee on Housing and Land Management. After that, Ms. Grabmullerova explained in detail the new “UNECE Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management for 2014 – 2020”. Then, Ms. Roll laid out the preliminary challenges and priorities in housing and urban development in the ECE region. Finally, there was a brief exchange with participants.

EMERGING ISSUES

UNECE Committee is preparing a regional study on “Challenges and Priorities in Housing and Urban Development” as part of its work to monitor the new “Regional Strategy for Sustainable Housing and Land Management for the period 2014 to 2020.” It will be available by October 2015.

That Committee’s representatives from Member States (Czech Republic and Slovakia) described key challenges concerning housing and land management in their region: inefficient use of energy in the residential sector which calls for policies and legislation that would stimulate the reduction of energy use; deteriorated housing due to lack of maintenance and investment – which over the long term might lead to health hazards; inaccessibility of quality and affordable housing; the lack of easy access for disabled and aged people due to physical or architectural barriers; the increasing damages to housing and human settlements caused by climate change and other natural and human-made disasters; and the overall low political attention to housing and urban development issues.

The committee also presented the ongoing discussions to issue a charter on sustainable housing to be called the “Geneva Charter on Sustainable Housing” in the near future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For UNECE, housing is central to the Habitat III agenda. UNECE mentioned a number of preliminary recommendations.

The lack of housing affordability should be addressed by tackling the fundamental housing market failures and by reviewing the link between the housing and the financial markets.

UNECE recommended introducing an integrative embedded system to social housing investment. Advancement to social housing governance and public-private partnerships should lead to cost efficiency.

In addition, it recommended a shift from home ownership focused to tenure neutral policies.

It was specifically mentioned that the housing sector should focus on key elements of sustainable urban development that links environmental and social issues.

In addition, international organizations should unite and support progress on housing related issues. These efforts should be supported in the long term, not exclusively when housing crises emerge.

A final recommendation is that rather than trying to meet the increasing housing demand, the responsibility of a government should be to create a positive environment in which other partners (private sector, individuals, etc.) are encouraged to respond to this issue in a sustainable way.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Elena Szolgayova
Organization/Institution	Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of Slovakia / UNECE
Position	Director General of Housing Policy and Urban Development and; Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management
Role in the session	Chair
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Daniela Grabmullerova
Organization/Institution	Ministry of Regional Development of Czech Republic European Affairs Department / UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management
Position	Director of European Affairs Department and; Vice-Chair UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management
Role in the session	Co-Chair
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Gulnara Roll
Organization/Institution	UNECE Trade and Sustainable Land Management Division
Position	Secretary of Committee and; Head of Housing and Land Management Unit
Role in the session	Organizer

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

Conference Room D

ELIMINATING CONSTRAINTS TO URBAN LAND AND PROPERTY OWNERSHIP BY **WOMEN**: A PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE

BACKGROUND

Worldwide, women have less than 15% of all titled property in their name, despite the fact that women represent half the global population. The reasons are complex and multifaceted. In many countries the statutory laws do not recognize a woman's legal right to formally own property. Instead, women mostly rely on customary law and practices, and/or gain informal access to land through their relationships to husband, father, or another male family member. This should be seen within a context in which more than 80% of the global population lacks the most basic documentation of their property rights.

Studies have shown that women who ensure their property rights enjoy increased physical security, improved autonomy, greater and more independent income, and better health outcomes. Without secure tenure, women are much more likely to face problems like poverty and violence. This is also true for married women who are denied their share of land in case of divorce or widowhood. Secure tenure also directly impact safety, in particular for single mothers and girls in dense neighborhoods, where having a secure place to live is critical to protect themselves.

This side event was meant to exchange on the current issues that affect women and how this could be addressed in the New Urban Agenda.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), Habitat for Humanity, and the Huairou Commission gave introductory presentations to establish the issues. Both PADF (Haiti) and Habitat for Humanity (Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti, Honduras, Mozambique) referred to specific programs, reporting on impact and lessons learned. The Huairou Commission drew on representatives of the grassroots women organizations present in the room to highlight the key bottlenecks for women to have secure access to land and property. The presentations were followed by an open exchange with participants.

EMERGING ISSUES

Key issues emerging from the presentations can be summarized as follows:

The reasons that women do not have access to secure tenure and property rights are very diverse: inadequate laws and policies; contradictions between customary law and practices and statutory law; lack of awareness; nature of marriage arrangements, lack of socio-economic status; low education, etc. The case of Haiti, where there are no legal restrictions on property rights by women, illustrates that legal access is not the only bottleneck.

Post-conflict situations offer particular challenges which exacerbate women's vulnerabilities, as lack of secure tenure often results in displacement for female-headed households.

As illustrated by PADF in relation to their response to the earthquake in Haiti, it is essential for women to be included as key players in the process of rebuilding, not only as beneficiaries or victims. Experience has shown that engendered urban design can greatly contribute to safety for women in public space. While formal ownership is in any case limited, costly, and a lengthy process to obtain, natural disasters, like the earthquake, complicate things further as many records are lost, increasing the vulnerability of female headed households.

Women suffer disproportionately from tenure insecurity in urban areas. In urban areas, the percentage of female headed households tends to be high, further increasing the importance of promoting their secure access to tenure. In the case of Haiti, the percentage of female households further increased from 53% to 56%.

Policy, planning, and programming decisions in male dominated societies may have unintended negative effects on women, as women are underrepresented in leadership and decision-making mechanisms.

Habitat for Humanity referenced their Global Housing Policy Indicators initiative as a useful tool to document and analyze property rights for women. Research in four countries (Armenia, Colombia, Indonesia and Uganda) illustrates and details the high discrepancy between customary practices and statutory laws when it comes to land tenure rights for women. Several examples were given whereby customary practices themselves became an obstacle to claiming the rights provided in statutory laws.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It should be recognized that without equal opportunity for women, the world will never see equity in the new Habitat Agenda. This equal opportunity must include both equality under the law and equality in practice. There should be clear support for land rights and secure tenure for women.

Working at the municipal and national levels to raise women's awareness of their rights through focused trainings remains key, as illustrated also by Habitat for Humanity's work in Bolivia.

National (urban/housing) policies should specifically address the needs of women and allow regularization of property rights in informal areas, paying specific attention to the rights of women and female headed households. The experience of Bolivia can be a useful point of reference.

Huairou Commission brought multiple examples to the debate that highlight the importance of grassroots mapping and peer learning, which is to be seen as a long term effort.

The experience of Habitat for Humanity in Honduras demonstrates the potential of mapping the need to use outcomes at the grassroots level to advocate for revised municipal housing policies and budgets.

The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) should continue its work on developing gender-sensitive tools.

There is no easy way to deal with land tenure issues but the problem cannot be solved without active involvement of local authorities and grassroots organizations. Having the will is not enough. There is a need to connect policies with grassroots knowledge. Habitat III needs to provide a framework to consolidate and to foster these partnerships, ensuring knowledge is building on grassroot collected data.

A coalition is needed to support a Secure Tenure Campaign for Women towards Habitat III, with a clear strategy and which builds a critical mass to advocate at scale.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Barbara McMurray
Organization/Institution	International Housing Coalition
Position	President
Role in the session	Moderator

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Judith Hermanson
Organization/Institution	Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
Position	Deputy Executive Director
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Lindsay Blake
Organization/Institution	Habitat For Humanity (HFH)
Position	Vice President
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Janice Peterson
Organization/Institution	Huairou Commission
Position	Chair of Coordinating Council
Role in the session	Panelist

EMERGING ISSUES

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Wednesday, 17 September 2014

Conference Room A

SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS: EXPLORING OUTLOOKS, EXPECTATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR **HABITAT III** TO MAKE CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

BACKGROUND

Cities Alliance is a global partnership of local authorities, national governments, non-governmental organisations and multi-lateral organisations working together to ensure that cities are increasingly characterised by effective local government, active citizenship, and delivering improved and responsive services to the urban poor.

The Cities Alliance partnership has set up a Joint Work Programme to prepare inputs for the Habitat III Conference while discussing priorities and messages crucial to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Outcomes from this event should help guide and set priorities for the Joint Work Programme and explore opportunities for a successful Habitat III preparation process. The discussion was facilitated by William Cobbett, Director of the Cities Alliance Secretariat.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The side-event was opened by William Cobbett, Director of the Cities Alliance Secretariat. Subsequently, Josep Roig, Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) stressed the importance of building solid partnerships, and identified some of the key requirements to achieve this goal in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The session focused on four key areas of the Alliance in promoting equity in cities: equitable economic growth in cities, responding to informality, promoting good governance, and city resilience. With these four guiding themes, the discussion explored expectations and opportunities for Habitat III to help make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Urbanization and climate change are among the major global transformative processes and they are closely interlinked with socio-economic disparities and poverty. Indeed, the poor are the most vulnerable to climate-related disasters because of lack of access to basic services, inadequacy of housing conditions, limited adaptive capacity (financial constraints), and human and tenure insecurity. Without land and property rights, the urban poor will remain socially, economically, and politically marginalized.

Furthermore, the urbanization process is resulting in the formation of slums, which are growing spontaneously, often in vulnerable locations. The traditional technocratic measures and regulations often fail to include people in informal settlements or even force people into informality. It is hence crucial to address the needs of those populations and to find new ways of doing so. Well managed urbanization has to be facilitated by measures at all levels, but local governments in particular have great potential in managing urban planning and building up resilience. Connecting the global agenda with the local level is a key concern.

Inclusiveness is a precondition for this New Urban Agenda to be truly transformative in nature. People need to be involved through Public-Private-People-Partnerships (P4). While NGOs and civil society have a lot of information about projects and ideas on the ground, the issue is whether governments are ready to learn from each other, connect to people, and offer technical assistance. The challenge is to make people partners, rather than just beneficiaries. Space is playing a fundamental role in creating inequalities and also becomes a platform to condemn them. For example, lately public spaces, such as Tahrir Square in Cairo, Zuccotti Park in New York City, and Puerta del Sol in Madrid have become synonymous with protest movements. Geographical space is a fundamental aspect of inequality as it defines access to services and other crucial aspects of the fabric of the city. Even in cities where inequality was significantly reduced, enclaves of inequality often remained.

Fighting inequality is not only a technical exercise, but also an ideological and institutional challenge. Until very recently, inequalities were deemed healthy for overall economic development by many, including several international agencies. Only more recently, the mainstream has turned to a more critical view, highlighting the potentially damaging effects of inequality on not only the social fabric and the environment, but also on macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP growth.

Moreover, recent studies reveal that national aggregated data hides inequalities at the local level. In the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda discussions, the issue of the data revolution and its role in measuring progress has been gaining momentum. However, this was mainly associated with the global and national levels. In order to implement the New Urban Agenda and to reduce inequalities in cities, data also needs to be collected at the local level and connected to such global and national frameworks.

One further crucial idea is the need for public-private partnerships that can help to bring the response to needs up to scale, for example regarding the creation of sufficient housing. While housing is a productive asset and a key building block to urbanization, only about 3-5% of people have access to housing finance. The involvement of business partners is necessary in order to achieve the scale needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the deliberations at the event, several recommendations and ideas on partnerships, the role of data, and other priority areas for further discussion in the preparations of a New Urban Agenda have emerged:

Partnerships can be very effective in setting up and implementing a vision at a territorial level. Localizing the New Urban Agenda should be facilitated through the creation of solid multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Those partnerships need to be institutionalized in order to be implementable. Key steps for doing so effectively and in a comprehensive and inclusive manner are:

// Identifying key roles and responsibilities for the process. (Public authorities, which are not necessarily local, need to ensure political, technical, and financial leadership of the planning process. This implies identifying the entity in charge of designing the program and assigning clear roles for the implementation of the different parts of the planning policy.)

// Strengthening the capacity of all relevant actors to implement the policies. (Via technical capacity and keeping citizens well-informed about the decision-making process).

// Establishing a forum to ensure sustained involvement by all relevant stakeholders in the process, especially citizens. In the long run, public policies are not sustainable if they are not implemented in an inclusive way and backed by the users.

// Engaging with business partners is crucial in order to achieve scale for certain investments or projects.

A key issue is also the collection of data and elaboration of indicators to measure progress towards goals. This should include collecting data and mapping at the local level, rather than just at the national or subnational levels.

The data revolution should be based on the identification of the role that national systems can play in data collection and the recognition of actors (particularly including slum dwellers) who can help to produce local data that goes beyond Geographic Information Systems mapping.

Further ideas included:

// Promoting thinking and acting at the level of space, not just at the level of policies.

// Promoting participatory and equitable processes in order to build resilience, with a focus on informal settlements and marginalized people.

// Thinking creatively in the context of crucial issues, such as housing, land, and tenure. Developing a new conceptualization of tenure, which is related to social reality of places (with land acting as both a place and an identity).

// Clearly understanding the role of secondary cities.

// Involving people/community members in the preparatory process and also the Habitat III Conference. It was suggested that each national delegation should provide financial assistance for at least 2 community members to join the Habitat III Conference.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Tanja Rödiger-Vorwerk
Organization/Institution	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Position	Deputy Director General
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Josep Roig
Organization/Institution	United Cities and Local Government (UCLG)
Position	Secretary General
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Marc Trouyet
Organization/Institution	Democratic Governance, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Position	Head of Mission
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Rose Molokoane
Organization/Institution	Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
Position	Deputy President
Organization/Institution	Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor South Africa
Position	National coordinator
Role in the session:	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Eduardo López Moreno
Organization/Institution	UN-Habitat
Position	Director of Research and Capacity Development
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Steve Weir
Organization/Institution	Habitat for Humanity International
Position	Vice president, Global Program Development and Support
Role in the session	Panelist

8:30 – 9:30 AM

Thursday, 18 September 2014

Conference Room D

HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF PUBLIC SPACE FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH

BACKGROUND

Public space and urban mobility are key elements to access education, health services and employment as well as leisure activities. However, access to public space is often contested. Rapid urbanization, experience and fear of crime and violence, including sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls can affect access and use of urban public spaces, causing increased exclusion of women and youth from such spaces.

For example in Mumbai, the State of the Urban Youth Report demonstrated that youth do not believe recreational spaces, parks and gardens are moderately available. Public spaces such as seafronts, parks, markets and open grounds are rapidly shrinking to be replaced by private clubs, associations, groups and services which benefits only a selective social class.

This side event intended to enhance consensus and awareness of key priority areas that should be integral to the Post-2015 development framework, the New Urban Agenda and Habitat III pertaining to the needs of women and youth in urban strategies. The integration of women and youth is needed not only for their intrinsic value as human rights but also for their instrumental value as a mean to facilitate the achievement of the goals and targets that are being set.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session included the statements of representatives of four organizations that focused their intervention on public spaces, from four different angles: women right, urban planning, women empowerment and youth participation.

Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women and moderator of this session, started by outlining the obvious yet undervalued issue of public space and its link with the empowerment of women and youth.

After, Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat took the floor and underlined that Habitat III can provide a platform for advocacy with sister agencies and partners to promote the role of women and youth in sustainable urbanization.

Subsequently, Ms. Janice Peterson, chair of the Huairou Commission, explained how her commission created a space for women to act and how they claim space for grassroots women within women's movement. She stressed the need for close partnerships with local governments and with UN agencies. Moreover, this kind of partnerships would also benefit the implementation process of the SDGs.

Further, Ahmad Alhendawi explained how public space is a human right by introducing his three A's-framework: availability, accessibility and acceptability. He pointed out that urbanization is a social science and that cities can transform a community into a society.

Finally, Lakshmi Puri rounded up the session by emphasizing how cities are centres of economic, social and cultural life. This shows the importance to build consensus regarding women's and youth's access to use public space.

EMERGING ISSUES

The specific challenges and concerns that women and youth face are the fact that currently, cities are not inclusive and equitable in terms of their design, infrastructure, facilities, and services. It is a missed opportunity where the potential of the women and youth bulge as a force for economic and societal urban prosperity remains untapped.

The exclusion of women and youth from urban planning and land ownership and management has many negative consequences for women and youth in cities. Historically and up till this day, cities are planned, designed, and governed without the equal engagement of women and youth as decision makers. There is a tendency to view urban planning as gender and age neutral, not shaped by or in the interest of a particular sex or age group. 'Gender-neutral' planning is assuming that that women and men and people of all ages are affected equally. In reality, what is 'gender-neutral' usually has a male perspective and is in adult men's interest. More often than not, it also excludes youth perspectives as the needs of urban youth are left unrecognized.

A number of cities have also experienced increased politicization of public space with youth-led movements taking to the streets and squares of cities in an expression of discontent with the status quo. A range of policing activities, such as surveillance, curfews, move-on and anti-congregation laws, are being deployed in urban areas across the world in response, something which may further alienate youth instead of fostering long-term sustainable solutions which incorporate and address the needs of urban youth today. Overall, the exclusion of youth from urban public space hampers youth's ability to contribute positively to the urban social, economic and political life of their city.

It is also a missed opportunity where the potential of the youth bulge as a force for economic and societal urban prosperity remains untapped. Rather than being seen as a resource, youth are viewed as a challenge adding additional pressure on resources from local and national governments. This manifests itself also in urban public space. Perceived as a threat or challenge, youth often encounter numerous difficulties in accessing public spaces for their social, cultural and material development. Concerns over security and criminal gangs translate into the exclusion of urban youth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Habitat III will be the first global conference after the Post-2015 Development Agenda and constitutes a critical opportunity to discuss and chart new pathways in response to the challenges of urbanization and the opportunities it offers for the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

Rather than leaving youth and women on the side-lines of planning and problem solving, these groups should be part of the solution in support of sustainable urban development. Urban public spaces are critical for youth and women to use for shelter, community innovation and entrepreneurship in support of economic development.

Therefore, Habitat III needs to confirm and adopt a people-centered -- women and youth-led -- sustainable urban development; especially when our goal is to create urban equity in development. The UN needs to work with partners and grassroots organization to make sure the voices of women and youth are heard.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Lakshmi Puri
Organization/Institution	UN Women
Position	Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Aisa Kirabo Kacyira
Organization/Institution	UN-Habitat
Position	Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Ahmad Alhendawi
Organization/Institution	UN office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
Position	United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Janice Peterson
Organization/Institution	Huairou Commission
Position	Chair

8:30 – 9:30 AM

Thursday, 18 September 2014

Conference Room A

FROM MDGs TO SDGs: TOWARDS A NEW PARADIGM AT **HABITAT III** – SUSTAINABLE CITIES & HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN THE POST-2015 UN DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND

Over half of the world's population now lives in cities, a proportion likely to reach 70% in 2050. As a result of rapid economic growth and increasing migration from rural to urban areas, 90% of the increase in urbanization comes from developing countries. This unprecedented pace of urbanization has been a major change since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted, and this is placing heavy demands on urban services for transport, energy, water and sanitation, housing, and solid waste management. It is also creating severe challenges of inadequate and unequal access to these services across urban populations, particularly for the urban poor.

In order to create a transformative SDG framework, it is essential to address the themes of sustainable cities, human settlements, and rural development in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner. This brought about the question: considering the need to change course to accelerate progress, what are the channels by which an SDG on cities and human settlements can provide for more sustained, long term approaches and interventions within the framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda?

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The event was organized by the Communitas Coalition and the World Urban Campaign. Several short presentations allowed elaboration on the topic of the session: "From MDGs to SDGs: Towards a New Paradigm at Habitat III: Sustainable Cities & Human Settlements in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda." Presentations were made by UN-Habitat on the main differences between the MDGs and SDGs, and on critical factors to ensure that the Goals will be met, linking it back to UN-Habitat's shift from a focus on slum upgrading towards slum prevention and planned urbanization. The following speakers each elaborated on one of the key targets under the proposed Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Human

Settlements: Slum Dwellers International focused on target 11.1 on 'housing and slums'; the World Urban Campaign on target 11.3 on 'planning'; the Institute for Transportation & Development policies (ITDP) on target 11.2 on 'transport'; and ICLEI on the disaster reduction and resilience related targets 11.5 and 11.b.

EMERGING ISSUES

At the outset, a call was made to address the themes of sustainable cities, human settlements, and rural development in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner in order to arrive at a transformative SDG framework of universal value. The following main channels, by which a Sustainable Development Goal on Cities & Human Settlements can provide for more sustained, long term approaches and interventions within the framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, were highlighted:

- // Moving from sectoral interventions to city-wide approaches;
- // Adopting sustained, longer term approaches and solutions for the majority;
- // Use the transformative power of urbanization;
- // The catalytic effect of urbanization in rural areas;
- // Well-planned urbanization, a key component of sustainable urban development.

The main differences between the MDGs and SDGs were summarized: i) the MDGs reflected a more fragmented approach towards a more integrated and future-oriented agenda with a strong focus on 'prevention'; ii) for the MDGs, a monitoring tool had to be elaborated post-facto resulting in some targets being difficult to monitor (i.e. slums), while the SDGs are constructed around key targets and indicators that are measurable; iii) a stronger effort has been made in the SDGs to localise the Goals. The New Urban Agenda will help to operationalise the transformative and integrated nature of the "Urban SDG" by focusing on the multiplier potential of space; by developing accountable multi-level governance systems, and by embracing the key ingredients that can help to ensure that urbanization produces prosperity ("the Cities Prosperity Index"). In the finalisation of the SDGs there must be a focus on achieving a technical and political compromise, on prioritising action and ensuring that the means of implementation are clear.

Regarding target 11.1: Slum Dwellers International insisted on a stronger focus on security of tenure. A strong call was made also to build the relationship between local governments and slum dwellers, building on the data and knowledge collected by the slum dwellers themselves.

In relation to target 11.2: the lack of reference to walking, cycling, and inter-modality was noted as a major gap.

Regarding target 11.3: there was an appeal to simplify the language and to make it visual. In planning, it is essential to define the public space and accomplish public investment that inspires the right type of private investment, resulting in inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities. The narrative needs to be clear and appealing. Participants noted the need to re-introduce the reference to limiting urban sprawl and to further develop the linkage between urban and rural.

In relation to targets 11.5 and 11.b, it is important that the references to risk reduction and resilience move beyond the narrow perspective of natural disasters, and include man-made disasters. It will be key to ensure that proper linkages be established with HFA2, UNFCC and Habitat III, all with a strong role for local governments. There was also a call to ensure accountability and transparency, including through grassroots monitoring.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Care must be taken not to lose a specific focus on the urban poor and informal settlements, as in some cases they represent the dominant part of the economy, while occupying only a small portion of the available space.

Cities need to be seen as part of broader constellations, which require a strong integration. Participants noted that there are no sustainable prosperous cities without sustainable and prosperous hinterlands.

The New Urban Agenda and the means of implementation need to allow for an economy of scale, with a strong emphasis on ensuring a multiplier effect.

Sustainable urbanization requires well-articulated and integrated multi-level governance and inclusive partnerships.

Appropriate data collection, including grassroots information and spatial data, will be key to establish the evidence base for proper policy development and interventions.

Proper planning and design, in particular of public space, is essential to good sustainable urbanization.

Well-thought through means of implementation will be critical and must allow for smart prioritisation. It will also be important to create investments in space.

Participants felt that more work needs to be done to articulate the issues that will be addressed by Habitat III, including addressing the potential for cities to drive development. The current formulation of the 'Urban Goal' should become more robust. There was also an appeal to facilitate more sharing of lessons, in particular from countries that have gone through rapid urbanization, as part of the process towards Habitat III.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Maruxa Cardama
Organization/Institution	Communitas Coalition
Position	Executive Project Coordinator
Role in the session	Chair
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Eduardo Moreno
Organization/Institution	UN-Habitat
Position	Coordinator of the Research & Capacity Development Branch
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Rose Molokoane
Organization/Institution	Slum Dwellers International
Position	SDI South Africa
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Sonia Fadrigio
Organization/Institution	Slum Dwellers International
Position	SDI The Philippines
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Eugenie Birch
Organization/Institution	Penn Institute for Urban Research and World Urban Campaign
Position	Co-Director/chair
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Michael Replogle
Organization/Institution	Institute for Transportation & Development policies (ITDP)
Position	Managing Director for Policy & Founder
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Yunus Arikan
Organization/Institution	ICLEI
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Janet de Luna Jiménez
Organization/Institution	Secretariat of Urban Development & Housing, Government of Mexico
Position	Advisory Coordinator
Role in the session	Panelist

1:30 – 2:30 PM

Thursday, 18 September 2014

Conference Room A

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO **HABITAT III**: PRIORITIES, EXPECTATIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TERRITORIES

BACKGROUND

This session highlighted the importance and need of actively involving local and regional governments in the discussion towards the Habitat III Conference. Discussion revolved around the need for better cooperation between local and national governments as well as the public and private sector, civil society, and other key organizations in ensuring the delivery and implementation of urban basic services. Furthermore, the issue of decentralization was addressed as a necessary process in ensuring that local authorities have the capacity and resources to decide on their own policies with national governments. It is essential to strengthen the role and the voice of local authorities, leaders, and governments in the emerging challenges that cities are currently and will be facing.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session panelists identified the need for cooperation between all stakeholders and levels of governance for building, implementing, and sustaining effective policies and programs for cities. Panelists made presentations from Morogoro (Tanzania) and Bogota (Colombia) who both brought forth the issue of recentralization of policies that have contributed to a decrease in capacities and competencies of their cities. Rose Molokoane from Slum Dwellers International highlighted the importance of accurate data sharing to ensure access to land and secure tenure especially for informal settlements. Alain Le Saux, Secretary-General of the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis) stated the need for national governments to recognize the political power of local authorities; only then, he said, can the right policies and programs be adapted, contributing to the sustainable growth of cities.

EMERGING ISSUES

The main challenge addressed by all panelists was the increase of recentralization in many countries that has emerged in the past decade in response to the economic crisis. To tackle this situation, all participants underscored that the Habitat III process must concentrate heavily on the cooperation between national and local governments, civil societies, NGOs and international organizations.

This cooperation is essential in tackling the persisting issues of deliverability of services and proper implementation of urban policies. The persisting trend has seen the inability of national governments to respond efficiently to the lack of basic urban services including water, sanitation, housing, and waste management services.

Furthermore, many growing cities remain unplanned where national governments and actors lack the correct data and statistics, which lead to large informal settlements. William Cobbett from Cities Alliance highlighted the need for Habitat III to look at the institutional arrangements needed to bridge the gap and to foster cooperation between the national and local authorities.

In addition, many inequalities in urban areas have resulted from problems surrounding land use and inadequate housing. However, the Secretary of Housing of Bogota pointed out that promoting housing and land tenure can risk recentralization at the national level.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Josep Roig
Organization/Institution	UCLG
Position	Secretary General of UCLG
Role in the session	Chair

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Habitat III process must give more recognition and priority to local authorities as the leaders of change in urban areas.

Frederic Vallier from CEMR brought fourth key areas that should be seen in Habitat III, including how local authorities can participate in the design of the urban agenda, and the tools they need to foster cooperation with stakeholders and actors.

Furthermore, linkages must be made between urban and rural areas to ensure economic, social, and environmental cohesion.

In addition, accurate data and information is needed for municipalities to formulate budgets that are inclusive and that incorporate local needs.

Trust must be built up between different levels of government so that policies are effectively implemented with results visible at the local and regional levels.

Recommendations were also given in light of the recent recentralization process. Central governments must recognize that local have political influence and are also able to make their own policy decisions regarding urban services and infrastructure.

William Cobbett emphasized the need to draw attention to the political economy when seeking to make changes in the institutional arrangements for accurate and efficient delivery of services to urban areas.

In order to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between local authorities, national governments, and international organizations, the process leading up to Habitat III must define what types of proposals we want to make. There must be a clear understanding on how local governments and communities can actively participate and recommend policy priorities to enhance the scope and reach of the Habitat III Conference. Furthermore, the Habitat III process must work from the bottom up on identifying priority policy areas, directing adequate financing, and fostering an inclusive environment for all actors and members involved.

Full name (Mr/Ms)	William Cobbett
Organization/Institution	Cities Alliance
Position	Director
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Rose Molokoane
Organization/Institution	Shack/Slum Dwellers International
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Maria Mercedes Maldonado Copello
Organization/Institution	Municipality of Bogota
Position	Head of Housing
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Alain Le Saux
Organization/Institution	World Association of the Major Metropolis
Position	Secretary General
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Ronan Dantec
Organization/Institution	Member of GTF
Position	Vice-President of the Sustainable Development Commission of the Senate, France, Municipal Councillor of Nantes, Spokesperson UCLG Climate
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Nondo Amiri Ama
Organization/Institution	Municipality of Morogoro, Tanzania
Position	Mayor
Role in the session	Panelist

1:30 – 2:30 PM
Thursday, 18 September 2014
Conference Room C

RESILIENT CITIES AT THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE —

BACKGROUND

This side event is based on the recognition of the need to accelerate the integration of “bottom up” strategies in the next generation of urban and ecological infrastructure development. Unlike centralized systems, decentralized systems are more resilient to natural or manmade acts of disaster – being composed of distributed, multi-component pieces. This event will outline the mix of centralized and decentralized infrastructures that cities must target to optimize future needs and where critical innovations are required. It will include drawing lessons learned from practitioners active in the NYC-region after Hurricane Sandy, to inform key strategies for building community-based resilience in coastal cities around the world. This agenda includes recognition of the importance of “people approaches” versus “process approaches” within current infrastructural research and practice; the importance of enabling collaborative relationships between local community members, design professionals, and other technical expertise to drive practical relevance, and the inherent need for social sustainability within this sensibility.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

This event was organized by the Urban Design Lab of the Earth Institute in Columbia University, The Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS), Global Practitioners Network, and Sherwood Institute. The intent was to distribute findings from the two-day workshop “Innovations in Urban Infrastructure. Where Practice Meets Policy,” organized on 15-16 September, combined with a presentation on “Rebuild by Design”, followed by a discussion to seek feedback and start formulating recommendations towards Habitat III.

EMERGING ISSUES

The session opened with a clear statement that design was important as cities have a distinct spatial reality and presence, and that good urbanization was needed to help, amongst other things, to ensure access to basic services and infrastructure.

Infrastructure is seen as a key component of any urban design or planning exercise. Good urbanization requires that all infrastructure systems are properly inter-connected. At the same time, it was noted that any design is as good as its implementation.

As illustrated by the workshop results, presenters advocated for the need of multi-disciplinary approaches. The workshop had brought together architects, landscape architects, NGO representatives, urban planners, economists, etc.

They investigated six ‘infrastructure’ typologies, considering three scales (district, city, and bioregional scales) and arrived at 14 preliminary recommendations to support innovation in urban infrastructure, which they hope to elaborate towards Habitat III. The intent is not to look for ‘universally applicable’ recommendations but instead to stress the importance of affordable and site specific solutions. Some of the recommendations included: to focus on resource optimization, urban fabric adaptation, to link flood management with ecological health, to develop innovative financing and governance models aligned with urban constellations (not administrative boundaries), to promote resilience planning (100 year perspective), and to provide stewardship for large scale bio-systems connecting the hinterland with urban areas.

Initiated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Presidential Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, Rebuild by Design was presented as a unique and innovative competition that connected the most talented researchers and designers with the Sandy-affected area’s active businesses, policymakers and local groups and used an explicit spatial and urban design approach to arrive at solutions allowing the redevelopment of their communities in more sustainable, resilient, and economically sound ways. The 10 selected proposals are now moving into implementation mobilizing USD \$920 million in federal disaster funds.

A case was further made for the need to have quantifiable metrics for urban resilience. This should help to under-build a framework that facilitates the selection of the most appropriate strategies for specific contexts.

The discussion focused on the challenge to avoid ‘gentrification’ with large scale public investments, the complexities of public private partnerships, and the need to cater also for the aging population.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Richard Plunz
Organization/Institution	Columbia University
Position	Director, Urban Design Lab, The Earth Institute
Role in the session	Moderator

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Mary Rowe
Organization/Institution	The Municipal Art Society of New York MAS Global Practitioners Network
Position	Director, Urban Resilience and Livability
Role in the session	Moderator

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Amy Chester
Organization/Institution	Rebuild by Design
Position	Managing Director
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Patricia Culligan
Organization/Institution	Columbia University
Position	Co-Director, Urban Design Lab, Earth Institute; Associate Director, Institute for Data Sciences & Engineering
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	S. Bry Sarté
Organization/Institution	Columbia University; Sherwood Institute
Position	Founder & Executive Director of Sherwood Institute of San Francisco; Adjunct Associate Professor, Urban Design Program, Columbia University
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Morana M. Stipisic
Organization/Institution	Columbia University
Position	Research Advisor, Urban Design Lab, The Earth Institute
Role in the session	Panelist

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a need to advocate for a key role for participatory urban design as it allows embracing the spatial reality of cities and connects physical and social resilience. It is essential to ensure multi-disciplinary approaches that work closely with the communities concerned.

More work is needed to formulate clear recommendations related to infrastructure, which should be seen as the backbone of public investment and planning efforts, taking into account different scale levels.

6:30 – 7:30 PM
Thursday, 18 September 2014
Conference Room D

THE HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION OF THE **NEW URBAN AGENDA**: THE IMPACT OF URBAN DISPLACEMENT

BACKGROUND

This session is part of a broader series of debates which will help to develop key messages for the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. It will contribute to unpacking the context of an urbanizing world and the challenges this poses for humanitarians, outlining key priorities for further discussion, identifying gaps that require further analysis, and suggesting possible deliverables before the World Humanitarian Summit and ways to organize related consultations. Habitat III, also in 2016, will offer opportunities to integrate necessary action into a global inter-governmental agreement. Within that debate, the challenge of managing urban displacement is considered a key priority.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was organized by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), in collaboration with UN-Habitat, and moderated by the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat. The first presentation highlighted some of the key numbers and questions to be discussed based on the ongoing research led by the Displacement Research Action Network of MIT. This was followed with two practice-based presentations. The session was concluded with a lively discussion and an appeal for further dialogue on the topic.

EMERGING ISSUES

At the outset, it was noted that nearly half of all internally displaced people (IDPs) live in urban areas, mostly in developing countries, while the average duration of conflict-induced displacement is 17 years. Evidence shows that in cases of protracted displacement, the desire for permanent local integration increases quickly, without necessarily giving up on their place of origin.

It was argued that protracted displacement cannot simply be tackled as a humanitarian challenge. The point was made that both acute and protracted displacement should be seen also as both a development challenge and opportunity. If seen purely as a humanitarian challenge, the risk increases that an influx of displaced populations will simply overstretch the capacity of existing urban systems and result in accelerated informal/unwanted urban growth. It requires sustained coordination among development and humanitarian actors and calls for innovative and flexible approaches to help cities to cope with displacement and to become more resilient. However local and national authorities are often reluctant to recognize displacement as a development issue and neglect to integrate it into their planning and service provision efforts.

While it is correct to say that urban IDPs face specific protection challenges and heightened vulnerabilities, urban IDPs often face similar challenges as the urban poor. Presentations highlighted recent experiences which now include an additional focus on host communities, in view of maintaining stability and social cohesion.

A high number of the IDPs end up living in informal settlements, disaster-prone, or insalubrious conditions, and also occupying public or private land and buildings. As a result, they are at high risk of renewed displacement due to natural hazards or forced eviction, as illustrated in the Bossaso case study. Successive displacement and insecure tenure reduces the capacity of IDPs to cope, increases their vulnerability, and decreases their desire to invest their assets and income in capital expenditures, such as upgrading their living conditions.

It was asked to what extent we can ensure that policies and frameworks, in particular related to tenure, can be adjusted to cater for acute or protracted displacement. In terms of housing needs, it is clear that the sudden escalating demand for housing by urban IDPs can destabilize housing markets and put severe pressure on municipal infrastructure and basic services. However, it was argued that any investment in increasing the housing supply, such as any investment in infrastructure, is a potential developmental resource and economic multiplier. The case of Bossaso illustrated how displacement can be seen as a development opportunity to redirect and plan urban growth, making it more inclusive, productive, and sustainable.

Humanitarian intervention has already been shifting towards viewing IDPs as economic agents who apply their own economic calculus when prioritizing between needs such as housing, food, services, etc. This has manifested itself in the proliferation of cash transfer platforms and commodity vouchers, making it easier to build on the coping mechanisms of IDPs and those of the host community, replacing lost income, reducing dependency, and helping to integrate them into local markets. The point was made that this was critical in urban areas, as urban economies are cash-based.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a need for more data on the push and pull factors to and from cities and on the average duration of displacement for disaster-induced displacement.

Development and humanitarian approaches need to be aligned in emergency contexts, which require joint assessments, planning and programming.

Assistance to displaced individuals needs to be programmed in a way that ensures it can be used as a development opportunity, strengthening urban resilience, and fast-tracking planned and inclusive urban growth. "Urban Resilience," as set out by the Medellin Collaboration, can provide a useful framework to align the humanitarian and development agenda in dealing with urban displacement.

There was a call to take this dialogue forward with the aim of arriving at concrete recommendations for the World Humanitarian Summit, and creating coherent operational paragraphs in the New Urban Agenda to be agreed upon during Habitat III. This would also allow a re-assessment of how the issue of urban displacement relates to the Sustainable Development Goals.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Nick Harvey
Organization/Institution	World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat
Position	Thematic Coordinator
Role in the session	Chair
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Kellie Leeson
Organization/Institution	International Rescue Committee
Position	Deputy Regional Director
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Huma Gupta
Organization/Institution	Displacement Research Action Network MIT
Position	PhD Student, School of Architecture and Planning
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Filiep Decorte
Organization/Institution	UN-Habitat
Position	Chief Technical Advisor UN Habitat New York Liaison Office
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Maggie Stephenson
Organization/Institution	University College LongoUCL
Role in the session	Panelist

6:30 – 7:30 PM
Thursday, 18 September 2014
Conference Room A

CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S EXPECTATION FOR **HABITAT III** ---

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this session was to outline the links between the tools protecting human rights and cities, and the necessity of making them more efficient and legally binding. The Right to the City should be seen as a group of rights that must be enforced and defended. This concept has been around for years, and has been the focus of philosophical and social movements around the world. The civil society and local authorities play a critical role in this context, since they should be the driving force leading to the creation of new policies for more sustainable and inclusive cities.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was opened by Joseph Schechla, representative of HIC-HLRN and was followed by Mr. Nelson Saule Junior, representative of the Insitute Pólis of Brazil. This was in turn followed by a substantive and critical debate among the participants. Mr. Joseph Schechla described the history of the broad framework of the Right to the City, and human rights in the city. Mr. Nelson Saule emphasized the importance of cooperation between the civil society and local governments. The debate among participants that ensued highlighted the need to advance beyond the traditional debate on the Right to the City.

EMERGING ISSUES

Current work related to the Right to the City includes the World Charter for the Rights to the City. Participants noted the key roles played by both migration and discrimination. The right of non-discrimination and public access to services should be addressed as key priorities, and should be enforced by policies and governments.

Further, the right of citizens to be involved in municipal planning processes must be upheld. The right to participation in public life as well as property rights must be addressed in order to establish clear and legally-binding instruments and policies that can enable implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Another factor to be taken into account and to be addressed is the failure of policies to address problems in rural areas. Tenure security is a key issue that must be addressed in order for urbanization to address human rights.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The rights to participation, inclusion, and property should receive the attention they deserve, and policies should be created to guarantee their protection. It was suggested that a “human rights’ city” be created in order to act as a reference for local and national policy implementation. Participants noted that a human solution, one that includes people and thinks of people, is necessary, as cities are made up of their inhabitants.

There is a need for a legally-binding instrument, in order to be able to hold the countries accountable, at the national and regional levels, and to enforce the implementation of the urban agenda. Civil society and local authorities should work together, by joining their efforts and resources in order to create better cities.

Better and more affordable services, as well as peace and security, are also fundamental for the development of cities. Collecting data in an efficient way is crucial to learn from past lessons and formulate effective policies.

Some participants noted that a more effective way of tackling this debate would be to talk about rights and duties/responsibilities in the city.

The right to the city, and human rights in general, are a priority for several civil society organizations. There has been criticism regarding the lack of consideration given to human rights in the urban agenda, and one suggestion was that a response must be created to address this criticism. Participants noted that a thematic conference could deal with the rights and duties/responsibilities in cities.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Joseph Schechls
Organization/Institution	Habitat International Coalition (HIC) Housing and Land Rights Network
Position	Coordinator
Role in the session	Organizer
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Nelson Saule Junior
Organization/Institution	Institute Pólis of Brazil
Position	Coordinator
Role in the session	Co-organizer

PARALLEL EVENTS —

New York, 12-16 September 2014

During the Habitat III PrepCom1 week, stakeholders and partners organized events and discussions on sustainable urban development beyond the United Nations Headquarters.



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Note to the reader.

In addition, Sherwood Institute in collaboration with Columbia University's Urban Design Lab organized the Forum "Innovations in Urban Infrastructure" on September 15-16, 2014, as a Habitat III PrepCom1 parallel event.

6:00 – 8:00 PM
Friday, 12 September 2014
Centre for Architecture

HABITAT III: THE ROLE OF DESIGN – A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

BACKGROUND

This event gathered professionals in the field of urban planning and architecture, in both developed and developing cities, to discuss and to explore the role of urban design in the urban agenda, which will be championed by Habitat III.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was opened by Lance J. Brown, president of the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIANY). He introduced the participants and provided some background on the Habitat III Conference and the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization (CSU). He then presented two upcoming events at the Center for Architecture in New York, and opened the floor to the panelists.

The discussion revolved around urbanization trends, the challenges cities are facing, and the ways urban design can contribute to making urbanization sustainable. The panelists provided numerous examples from both the developed and developing world. At the end of their presentations, the panelists answered questions from the public. The session concluded with a statement by Aliye Celik, Co-Chair of the CSU, about the evolution and achievements of UN urban policy from the MDGs to the SDGs (including a stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization). She concluded by emphasizing the importance of involving both professionals (architects, planners, and designers) and civil society in the Habitat III process and Conference.

EMERGING ISSUES

The discussants began the session by acknowledging the phenomenon of unplanned and spontaneous urbanization, and the challenges associated with it (including mega-cities, mega-slums, and food security). The opening discussion revolved around the need to raise awareness, including amongst western and wealthy societies that may not have fully realized the impact of urban growth occurring in developing cities. Yet this is already affecting us, as witnessed by the pressures on the U.S. southern border. Moreover, there is trend showing a lack of comprehensive central policies on urbanization, which can result in undifferentiated mega-regions.

The discussion then turned to the main challenge, i.e. that spontaneous urbanization does not naturally produce well-designed human settlements. The process of urbanization experienced by Europe and North America in the 19th century involved designers and urban planners, with society as an intermediary. Urban plans were then gradually adjusted to reality. This was also possible because the urbanization in the 19th century occurred over several generations. In today's developing cities, where urbanization is happening at a much faster pace, the practice of planning the layout of the city (including public and recreational space, and access to plots) has been replaced by master planning and zoning. This is caused in part by lack of institutional capacity and financial resources. The provision of public space - where and when it occurs - is typically by private investors, and is often intertwined with mayors' political cycles. The result is the lack of and the fragmentation of streets and other public spaces. The wider issue at stake here is that while traditionally the design was the law, today streets and public spaces are increasingly not recognized and protected by the law. In other contexts, where urban design is actually taken into account, it is often done with the wrong design (i.e. design that does not respect the local context). Moreover, urban design must ultimately be a social process to be transformative.

The contribution of urban design to social change is exemplified by the case of the Bronx, in New York, a neighborhood suffering from a severe problem of stigma. A set of good quality, green, and people-centered design interventions in the last decades have gradually transformed the neighborhood. However, while concepts can be replicable, strategies must be tailored to the socio-cultural and political context. When analyzing the role of urban design, the issue of prioritization is essential. Examples from Tianjin, Jakarta, Miami, Sydney and San Francisco reveal that urban design has a crucial role in the sustainable use of water, renewable energy and electric transportation, sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, and urban renovation. Perhaps the single greatest challenge is to design without boundaries, as exemplified by the Great Lakes Basin. Lastly, legal structure is a major obstacle for urban designers. In this context, the involvement of mayors and politicians, regional planning, and a dialogue with UN-Habitat - the only organization able to tie all the above pieces together - is crucial.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms) Lance Jay Brown
 Organization/Institution FAIA, DPACSA, President, AIA New York / CSU
 Position Welcome

Full name (Mr/Ms) James McCullar
 Organization/Institution FAIA, Principal, James McCullar Architecture /
 Co-Chair CSU
 Position Introduction

Full name (Mr/Ms) Grahame Shane
 Organization/Institution Columbia University
 Position Adjunct Professor of Architecture
 Role in the session Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms) James Rausse
 Organization/Institution AICP, President, APA NY Metro Chapter / Director,
 Capital Programs, Office of the Bronx Borough
 President
 Role in the session Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms) Scott Duncan
 Organization/Institution Skidmore Owings & Merrill, AIA, LEED AP
 Position Design Director
 Role in the session Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms) Urs Gauchat
 Organization/Institution College of Architecture & Design,
 New Jersey Institute of Technology / CSU
 Position Dean
 Role in the session Moderator

Full name (Mr/Ms) Aliye P. Celik
 Organization/Institution Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization
 Position Co-Chair
 Role in the session Closing

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the trends and pressing challenges described above, the discussants stressed the urgent need to intervene, and identified a set of recommendations for the New Urban Agenda. In particular, they made the following points:

// Cities are facing the challenge of accelerating urbanization, and good design and place space are major solutions. They will guide growth and shape the cities of tomorrow.

// Urban design is a process, and it has to be inclusive to be a successful catalyst for social change.

// City design approaches have changed over time, from modernism to grassroots movements, and the challenge for Habitat III is to find the right balance as a hybrid scale.

// Despite the difference in circumstances, the past experience of countries such as the United Kingdom, France, and the United States teach us that a vision and the political will to turn this vision into reality are crucial.

// Prioritization and contextualization should guide policy making. The legal structure of a given place is the single biggest obstacle for urban designers and planners. A regional approach and innovative solutions to design without boundaries are needed.

5:00 – 7:00 PM
Monday, 15 September 2014
301 W 57th Street, New York, NY

FIABCI,
THE UNITED NATIONS
AND **THE WORLD** —

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this session was to underline the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and the real estate industry and the private sector in general, given that both are seeking to promote sustainable urban development.

This session created an opportunity to coordinate different points of view in order to better achieve the common goals of achieving sustainable urbanization.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was opened by Ms. Danielle Grossenbacher, World President of the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI), who introduced Ms. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director. Ms Kacyira emphasized the need for being inclusive in order to achieve faster and better development, and outlined the critical role of FIABCI, and the real estate sector in general, to fight for more sustainable and valuable cities, following what was agreed on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

This was followed by a debate raising issues and making recommendations in the context of the Habitat III Conference preparation.

EMERGING ISSUES

In the current Post-2015 Development Agenda process, urbanization and development should be presented as two faces of the same coin. Those should be underpinned by effective policies at the national level, relying on good governance processes and sound legislation. They should also be driven by effective urban planning and the development of public space.

A better understanding of new realities generated by rapid urbanization is essential to the elaboration of policies. The increasing demand for housing and infrastructure in a changing urban environment calls for an increased scrutiny of real estate practices. Those need to address all the dimensions of sustainability, taking into account increasing urban disparities and looking at the long term impacts of projects. Innovation is needed to adapt to the changing demand in the rental and property markets.

After the 2008 financial crisis, FIABCI organized a meeting with the UN Secretary General, which led to the establishment of guidelines for sustainable real estate markets. The Rio+20 Conference clarified the need for sustainability, and consensus and partnerships were seen as fundamental to this process. An application was launched (“D.B.-Doing Business-at a Glance”) which allows access to all the laws of every country (with particular indicators and sub-national considerations) to disseminate information on different regulations, and to enable people to participate in surveys and contribute through feedback.

Such tools are essential to improving knowledge and practices of actors in the real estate industry.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sustainable Development Goals will constitute the basis of the upcoming blueprint for development. The business and industries being essential drivers of innovation are called to actively contribute. The real estate industry should play a key role in the implementation of the agenda, particularly on target 11 that addresses cities and human settlements.

Coordination between the private sector and the UN system in that process seems as a logical step. Synergies should be identified starting from assessing real estate market realities in different contexts. Combining knowledge and efforts will be essential for improved results.

There is a great need for improving global ethical standards in order to guide real estate practices worldwide. A “new ethics coalition” has been created by FIACI. However, implementation and enforcement will remain a challenge.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Danielle Grossenbacher
Organization/Institution	FIABCI
Position	World President elect of FIABCI
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Aisa Kirabo Kacyira
Organization/Institution	UN-Habitat
Position	Deputy Executive Director
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Judy Shenefield
Organization/Institution	FIABCI
Position	Past World President of FIABCI
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Tony Grant
Organization/Institution	FIABCI
Position	Past World President of FIABCI
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Enrico Campagnoli
Organization/Institution	FIABCI
Position	Past World President of FIABCI
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Robyn Waters
Organization/Institution	FIABCI
Position	World President of FIABCI

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Tuesday, 16 September 2014
UN Church Center, 8th Floor.

HABITAT III ---

CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING GROUP

BACKGROUND

The orientation session was organized to provide civil society organizations with a space of exchange on the organizational and substantive preparation of Habitat III and PrepCom1. A particular attention was given to the participation of partners and the need to establish a strong partnership approach to the Habitat III Conference.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was opened by Rachel Wyant (Huirou Commission) and Matthew Boms (Communitas), who introduced the panelists and the programme of the day. The session included two panels.

The first panel, consisting of Jan Peterson (Huirou Commission) and Eduardo Moreno (UN-Habitat), introduced the context of the Habitat III Conference. It was moderated by Eugenie Birch (World Urban Campaign) who outlined the main roles of that partners should play on the road map towards the Conference.

The second panel looked at the New Urban Agenda, and was presented by Maruxa Cardama (Communitas) and Clara Irazábal (Columbia University) and moderated by Mary Rowe (MAS).

After the presentations, participants exchanged through five thematic groups on: territorial planning, urban/rural linkages, good governance and human rights, slums and security of tenure, climate change and resilience. The session concluded with the presentation of each of the five groups in which recommendations were made.

EMERGING ISSUES

The first panelists discussed the current trends, the changes that occurred in the past two decades, and some of the requirements for the New Urban Agenda. It was argued that place matters for demographic (54% of people currently live in urban areas), economic (cities account for the 70% of the economic product) and environmental reasons (cities are responsible for the 80% of the GHGs emissions). Three main “global conversations” were identified to address the New Urban Agenda: peace and conflict, climate change challenges and rising urban inequalities.

While Habitat II has recognized that cities are the engines of growth and that urbanization is an opportunity, Habitat III represents a further positive shift towards the recognition of the need to harness the transformative power of urbanization through a city-wide and systemic approach rather than sectorial. Habitat III should aim at creating strong connections between urban planning and management as well as support an active participation of civil society and local authorities. The New Urban Agenda should address the critical issues of inequality, gender and human rights.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda should be used as a transformative agenda towards Habitat III. The role of the civil society is essential in ensuring that the agenda is implemented. The approved urban sustainable development goal reveals achievements through the introduction of the notion of resilient infrastructure and communities, a target on transport, action and outcome oriented targets. It has also several shortcomings since it does not directly address the issues of slums, security of tenure and urban sprawl in particular. Several steps have been identified including localizing the SDGs. Local authorities should play a crucial role in implementing the goals. Two questions remain: how a stand-alone goal is going to be instrumental in implementing wider issues and to what extent the SDGs will influence the New Urban Agenda in the Habitat III process.

Partners should drive knowledge, be strong advocates of sustainable urbanization and be effective consensus builders in order to successfully influence the Habitat III process and the New Urban Agenda. They have the responsibility and obligation to communicate and come up with a unified consensus driven approach. In terms of organization for the PrepCom, the identification of priorities and roles are key to the effectiveness of civil society.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panels strengthened the need to: consolidate lessons learnt, identify best practices, scale-up actions and policies, establish monitoring systems, mobilize resources for technical assistance, create networks, produce effective government and city responses, devise human rights strategies, revise and strengthen the UN-Habitat's mandate.

They stressed that one of the most important objectives of the conference is to come up with a collective agreement on the role of the different key players in sustainable urban development. They also emphasized the need for a partnership strategy for Habitat III to address the UN-wide agenda and to make sure that it is inclusive without excluding the important urban/rural linkages. Also, while the agenda should be universal, current trends point out to the need to focus in Asia and Africa.

The thematic groups concluded on the need to build a "sufficient consensus" between all partners. They emphasized the need to think about legal frameworks and how to implement them, the importance of data collection and mapping for monitoring issues and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the future. They stressed the importance of communities in decision making. In terms of the issues, ownership, citizenship, identity and diversity should be at the top of the New Urban Agenda. The role of planner is critical but there should be a space for mediation between local knowledge and experts' technical knowledge to effectively plan and manage urban areas. Some participants emphasized the need for an holistic agenda that goes beyond the urban agenda and that considers the right-based approach to the city.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Rachael Wyant
Organization/Institution	Huairou Commission
Position	Governance Campaign Coordinator
Role in the session	Welcome and Acknowledgment

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Matthew Boms
Organization/Institution	Communitas Coalition
Position	Communications Manager
Role in the session	Welcome and Acknowledgment

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Eugenie L. Birch
Organization/Institution	Penn Institute for Urban Research and World Urban Campaign
Position	Co-Director/Chair
Role in the session	Moderator Panel I

Full name (Mr/Ms) Jan Peterson
Organization/Institution Huairou Commission
Position Chair of Coordinating Council
Role in the session Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms) Eduardo Lopez Moreno R.
Organization/Institution UN-Habitat
Position Coordinator of the Research and Capacity Development Branch
Role in the session Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms) Mary Rowe
Organization/Institution Urban Resilience & Livability, Municipal Art Society of NY City
Position Director
Role in the session Moderator Panel II

Full name (Mr/Ms) Maruxa Cardama
Organization/Institution Communitas Coalition
Position Executive Coordinator & Co-Founder
Role in the session Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms) Clara Irazábal
Organization/Institution Columbia University
Position Director of the Latin Lab/Assistant Professor of Urban Planning
Organization/Institution Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP)
Position Co-Chair of the Planners of Color Interest Group (POCIG)
Role in the session Panelist

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Tuesday, 16 September 2014

The Alvin Johnson/ JM Kaplan Hall, Auditorium.

THINKING INSIDE OUT ——— HOW **CITIES** CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVING **GLOBAL** PROBLEMS

BACKGROUND

This event addressed the link between the current challenges that cities today and their effects on the global settings, particularly the impacts of urban activities on development, citizen mobilization and social equity.

It is based on the recognition that in order to better understand the issues facing cities with regards to their integration at the national and global level, it is essential to focus on high-priority areas including economic growth, inequalities and climate change.

Cities have an important role in these generally perceived global issues. The session was meant to examine in particular how local issues such as urban design, building codes and municipal finance can have an impact on major global issues.

○ **OUTLINE OF THE SESSION**

The event consisted of three segments each addressing a global challenge with a presentation by panelists followed by debates.

The first segment focused on inequality and was presented by Robert Buckley who addressed the issue of the housing unaffordability in New York. Buckley's presentation emphasized the need to unleash constraints on land use, as it would drive down the share of land value in housing costs. The perspective he took was to unlock the potential of existing social housing and its assets, currently under-utilised.

Professor Karen Seto's presentation on climate change referred to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on Human Settlements, Infrastructure and Planning. Professor Seto presented key messages on how cities contribute to mitigating climate change taking into account the following: energy use and CO2 emissions, the potential of upcoming urban centres, the link between infrastructure and urban form, upcoming infrastructure challenges in cities and the mitigation opportunities within financial and institutional capacity.

In their presentations, Michael Cohen and Gulelat Kebede highlighted the need to close the gap between the private and public sector in order to achieve high quality of growth in cities.

E **EMERGING ISSUES**

Professor Cohen pointed out to the fact that the current urban discourse does not reflect current realities. The global conversation on urbanization should be connected to other related issues such as human rights, the financial crisis, etc.

Robert Buckley brought forth the issue of inefficient housing subsidies in New York which are doing little for those who needed most. The existing stocks are poorly configured and as such impose costs on public housing tenants pricing them out of the market.

Professor Seto highlighted a number of challenges with regards to climate change mitigation and the overlap between the environmental agenda and the urban agenda. Current emissions 'lock-in' are linked to consumption patterns based on infrastructure and energy supply that are difficult to change once put in place. The lack of monitoring and accounting mechanisms of cities climate action plans have resulted in a lack of understanding and real impact on emissions and energy use in cities.

Gulelat Kebede highlighted emerging issues in cities such as youth unemployment, premature diseconomies of agglomeration and spatial disconnects resulting in inefficiency, segregation and congestion. Furthermore, both Kebede and Cohen stressed the need for private and public cooperation in coordinating and allocating investment strategically, including through land-based financing and land readjustment.

Aromar Revi emphasized the great imbalance between rural and urban areas especially with regards to food and water security. The major challenges facing cities include the management of growth, keeping up with productivity changes, while dematerializing and decarbonizing. These challenges can only be operational and implementable in cities for reaching the sustainable development goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panelists provided a variety of recommendations with regards to the three global challenges of inequality, climate change and economic growth.

On the topic of inequality, they recommended that when land becomes expensive, structures should be substituted for land. This has not occurred in New York City, resulting in extremely high housing costs. It was recommended to make more efficient use of existing social housing land and assets.

With regards to climate change, effective planning and design are essential to urban energy use in transport and operations of the built environment. High diversity of land use is essential to increase co-location of residential and employment in high densities areas. This can considerably reduce energy consumption and lower emissions. Increasing connectivity is also key to improving the density of infrastructure and reducing emissions.

Releasing negotiating power to cities and involving mayors in discussions is essential in developing policies contributing to urban growth and sustained productivity. It is crucial to make national governments understand that that they cannot address the challenges of inequality and climate change without devolving fiscal and economic power to cities. Real engagement must be with communities in enabling political and social processes of change.

The Habitat III process has to be carried out in a way that is in tune with the on-going geo-political changes and conflicts. Habitat conferences in the past have not sufficiently addressed the pivotal role of local authorities.

During the Habitat III process, partners should communicate successful examples of cities, such as Copenhagen, Freiburg and Porto Alegre, which can contribute methods, plans and lessons learned to sustain productive and growing cities. Also they should emphasize that governments should allow cities to make their own commitments, communicate their priorities, set up their own monitoring systems and make choices in investments.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Michael Cohen
Organization/Institution	The New School, New York
Position	Director
Role in the session	Moderator and Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Robert Buckley
Organization/Institution	The New School
Position	Visiting Fellow, Studley Graduate program in International Affairs
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Don Chen
Organization/Institution	Ford Foundation
Position	Director, Just Cities Initiative
Role in the session	Panelist

Full name (Mr/Ms)	Gulelat Kebede
Organization/Institution	UN-Habitat
Position	Chief Urban Economy Branch
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Professor Karen Seto
Organization/Institution	School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University
Position	Professor and Associate Dean for Research
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Shagun Mehrotra
Organization/Institution	The New School
Position	Assistant Professor, Environment Policy and Sustainability Management
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Aromar Revi
Organization/Institution	Indian Institute for Human Settlements
Position	Director for Indian Institute for Human Settlements and Coordinator of Campaign for Urban SDG
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	Eugenie Birch
Organization/Institution	Penn Institute for Urban Research and World Urban Campaign
Position	Co-Director/Chair
Role in the session	Panelist
Full name (Mr/Ms)	David Satterthwaite
Organization/Institution	International Institute for Environment and Development, London
Position	Human Settlements Program
Role in the session	Panelist

3:30 – 5:30 PM

Tuesday, 16 September 2014

UN Church Center, 8th Floor.

ROUNDTABLE: RIGHT TO THE CITY FOR ALL – BUILDING A GLOBAL — PLATFORM TOWARDS **HABITAT III**

BACKGROUND

The round table promoted a cross-sector dialogue to strengthen the international coordination and mobilization towards the construction of a Global platform on the right to the city.

The platform aims to influence the articulation of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the definition of the New Urban Agenda in the Habitat III Conference.

This session gathered representatives of several organizations involved in social mobilization, housing rights, urban planning, and development worldwide.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

The session was moderated by Mr. Chris Grove. The event brought more than 30 representatives from various social organisations. After framing the discussion, the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) made a keynote presentation on the struggles to ensure inclusive urban reform, building on the World Charter on the Right to the City. Different panel members contributed to the discussion, and several participants intervened from the floor.

EMERGING ISSUES

The debate was organised around three main questions: 1/ What is the relevance of human rights and the right to the city approach, and instruments for the Habitat and Urban Agenda of the 21st century? 2/ How to articulate and mobilize civil society, social movements, and local governments' networks to build a common action plan toward Habitat III? 3/ What would be the role of a Global Platform for the Right to the City for all at national and international level?

The Habitat International Coalition argued that current urbanization models are too often based on neo-liberal economic development models, resulting in evictions and displacements of the urban poor and the most vulnerable. Speakers put forward that the "Right to the City" has the potential to fill important gaps in the existing human rights frameworks, which cover the right to adequate housing, but for instance, not the social dimension of property.

The Charter on the Right to the City is built around three pillars: human rights (equity and social justice), democracy (representative, participatory, direct), and territory (sustainability, spatial justice, planning, and public management).

Speakers also emphasized that the mandates of all UN Agencies are drawn from the UN Charter, and as such their programmes of work need to reflect the three core pillars of human rights, peace and security, and sustainable development in an integrated manner.

Throughout the discussion, participants argued that there should be more attention to the "social production" of housing, going beyond the discussion of "urban."

It was also highlighted that human rights obligations emanating from international covenants equally apply to national and local governments. It was explicitly acknowledged that this was a shared responsibility and that the state should ensure that local governments can play their role. Local authorities need to know their obligations, and the right to the city contributes to that, demonstrating practical and less theoretical guidelines. There is a need to combine participation and political actions within urbanization with collective rights.

The debate allowed for the elaboration on some aspects of the Right to the City, such as: i) safety in cities, especially for women; ii) the need for a more central position for alternative economic models; iii) the importance of security of tenure; iv) the universality of the Right to the City and its translation in other regions and cities.

MAIN SPEAKERS/ PRESENTERS/MODERATORS

Full name (Mr/Ms) Chris Grove
 Organization/Institution Habitat International Coalition -
 Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network
 Position Director
 Role in the session Moderator

Full name (Mr/Ms) Maria Silvia Emanuelli
 Organization/Institution Habitat International Coalition-Latin America
 Role in the session Presenter

Full name (Mr/Ms) Nelson Saule Junior
 Organization/Institution National Forum of Urban Reform & Instituto Polis,
 Brazil
 Role in the session Presenter

Full name (Mr/Ms) Michael Kane
 Organization/Institution National Alliance of HUD Tenants, U.S.
 Role in the session Presenter

Full name (Mr/Ms) Sally Roever
 Organization/Institution Women in Informal Employment Globalizing
 and Organizing

Full name (Mr/Ms) Tom Angotti
 Organization/Institution Center for Community Planning & Development,
 Hunter College & Progressive Planning Magazine

Full name (Mr/Ms) Rachel Wyant
 Organization/Institution Huairou Commission
 Position Coordinator, Governance Campaign

Full name (Mr/Ms) Jane Katz
 Organization/Institution Habitat for Humanity
 Position Director of International Affairs & Programs
 Government Relations and Advocacy

Full name (Mr/Ms) Joseph Schechla
 Organization/Institution Habitat International Coalition-Housing and
 Land Rights Network

RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, an appeal was launched to advocate for an Habitat Agenda for Habitat III, which is considered more comprehensive than the announced New Urban Agenda.

This should be people-centered and should consider alternative models of urbanization.

The Right to the City should be at the center of the process towards Habitat III. The social function of land, property, and the city would thus be key in moving forward. This must also be connected to democratic management and social functions.

HIC participants informed that the Global Platform on the Right to the City will be further developed at the next International Meeting on the Right to the City, which will focus on tools and strategies in order to implement the right to the city. The meeting will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on November 12th–14th.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Open Consultations, Side Events and Parallel Events

Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI)
American Institute of Architects
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)
American Planning Association
Arrow
Center for Resilient Design
Cities Alliance
Citiscopie
Colegio Nacional de Jurisprudencia Urbanística (CNJUR)
College of Distinguished Professor ACSA (DPACSA)
Columbia University
Committee on Human Settlements
Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)
Communitas Coalition
Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization
Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
Decentralization & Local Governance (DeLoG)
Delft University of Technology
Displacement Research Action Network at MIT
FAO
Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Ford Foundation
French Ministry of Global Affairs, Democratic Governance
Global Family
Global Fund for Cities Development (FDMV)
Global Mayors Forum
Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF)
Groots International
Habitat International Coalition
Habitat for Humanity
Huairou Commission
Hunter College, CUNY. Center for Community Planning & Development
IFAD
Indian Institute for Human Settlements
Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
Institute Pólis of Brazil
International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
International Council of Women
International Housing Coalition
International Institute for Environment and Development
International Network for Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net)
International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI)
International Rescue Committee
IOM
James McCullar Architecture
John Hopkins University
Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors
Metropolis
Metropolitan Collage
Mumbai Environmental Social Network
Municipal Art Society of New York (MAS)
Municipality of Almere
Municipality of Bogotá
Municipality of Morogoro
National Alliance of HUD Tenants of U.S.
National Forum of Urban Reform of Brazil
National Institute of Urbanism of Italy
New Jersey Institute of Technology, College of Architecture & Design
Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport (SLoCAT)
Penn Institute for Urban Research
People's Movement for Human Rights Learning (PDHRE)
Permanent Mission of Spain at the UN
Progressive Planning Magazine
Rebuild by Design
Secretariat of Urban Development & Housing, Government of Mexico
Skidmore Owings & Merrill
Slum Dwellers International
The New School
UN Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
UN Women
UNECE
UNECLAC
UNEP
UNFPA
UN-Habitat
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
United Methodist Women
University College London (UCL)
Vice-Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Government of Mexico,
Women in Cities International (WICI)
Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)
World Bank Group
World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat
World Urban Campaign
World Vision International
Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies



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