—HABITAT III—

ASSEMBLY REPORT

Title of the Assembly:	Children and Youth Assembly
Session:	Health and Wellbeing: Urban Influences and Systems Approach
Date:	15 October 2016
Time:	11:30 – 13:00
Venue:	Room 9, Casa de la Cultura
Name of leading organizing institution(s):	UN Major Group for Children and Youth
Country/city where leading organizing institution(s) is/are based:	United Kingdom
Contact Person	Lo, Sharon, Regional Focal Point (North and Southeast Asia)
Name of organizing partnering institution(s) with their respective base (city, country)	International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA); Amsterdam, Netherlands
Contact person from partnering institution(s)	Claeson Alice, Coordinator for the United Nations Task Force
Approximate number of participants:	8
Number of female participants:	5
Number of male participants:	3

1. Summary of the Assembly reflecting the structure and format

The Urban Health Session of the Children and Youth Assembly started with a brief introduction of the objectives of the session, followed by a presentation by Uta Dietrich, Research Fellow at the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health. The presentation highlighted some key concepts on the interrelations between cities, sustainability and health, the concept of planetary health and presented some key facts about urban sustainability, challenges and opportunities in the New Urban Agenda. It enhanced the importance of the role of stakeholders in an intergenerational health model, and the need to find a balance within making our carbon footprint lower without diminishing humanity's quality of life.

After the presentation, the participants formed a round circle to start an interactive discussion on the alternatives, proposals and recommendations for sustainable urban development that considers health at the core of efforts at all levels. The first participants of the discussion were the speakers, presenting their experiences in mainstreaming health issues in urban planning, challenges they have faced in the past and lesson learned, including concrete proposals. The moderator asked some questions to the participants and an interactive discussion started. After

the discussions, the moderator summarized the discussions and asked the participants to continue the dialogue in their organizations, communities and universities.

2. Key messages from the discussions

- Human futures are urban futures, the majority of world's population will live in cities.
- Cities should give better opportunities for people because that is a key determinant for people's health (better transportation, cycling, etc.)
- Sustainable urban development should take into account the social determinants: poverty, social position, etc.
- Cities have to provide affordable health services.
- Urban health programmes have to consider social barriers, such as lack of education of people, prejudices regarding the delivery of health services.
- Sustainable urban development must contribute to the overarching goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- Urban health have to emphasize the positive aspects of health and avoid associating health only with sickness.
- Governments should insist on primary care and public health, creating policies that promote prevention.
- Education is the main tool that governments should use as an intervention.
- Every policy statement should address health issues and considerations.

3. Action-oriented recommendations/ way forward in the framework of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

- Advocate for the inclusion of health issues in urban planning.
- Better education is needed to increase access to health services.
- UHC should be integrated in sustainable urban planning.
- Avenues for engaging all relevant stakeholders in developing urban health strategies for promoting physical, social, and mental well-being - while appropriately preventing and mitigating disease.
- Engage youth in youth-led public health interventions and advocacy.
- Create health literacy from governments to the people.

4. Key commitments (if any) within the implementation of the New Urban Agenda [collective, individual and from the organization represented]

- Contributing recommendations for enhancing urban health and well being, especially understanding the interface with the physical and built environment

- Identifying health needs of young people in urban contexts and promoting age-responsive health systems.
- While chronic non-communicable diseases have often been seen as diseases of the elderly and opulent, the greatest increase in burden due to NCDs is projected to take place in low-and-middle income countries, with 70% of deaths due to NCDs seen as premature. Adolescence is especially important, as healthy habits gained at a young age can be transformative in preventing or reducing the burden of NCDs. With cities getting younger, we will develop recommendations for developing conducive environments that promote urban health and well.

5. Way forward and next steps on monitoring the implementation of the outcomes and the commitments from the Assembly

Use the open, inclusive platform provided by the UN MGCY Habitat III working group to gauge interest, collect ideas, and share opportunities.

6. Proposed partnerships, network and synergies with other stakeholders and constituency groups within the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, emerging from the Assembly

- Working with local governments is important to integrate health issues in sustainable urban development.
- Multi-stakeholder participation is key for integrating health in urban issues.
- Potential synergies with groups like the NCD Alliance, NCD Child, and others who are particularly interested in working on enhancing urban health and well being.

7. Outreach and communication strategy to take forward recommendations and commitments for the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Use the open, inclusive platform provided by the UN MGCY Habitat III WG to gauge interest, collect ideas, and share opportunities. Follow-up with contacts made during the Habitat III conference, as well as linkages with the different Quito Commitments made.