**HABITAT III CONFERENCE REPORTING FOR ASSEMBLIES**
**Coordinators**

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| **Title of the Assembly:** | Children and Youth Assembly |
| **Session:** | Sustainable Urban Development Youth Initiatives (SUDYI) Showcase |
| **Date:** | 15 October 2016 |
| **Time:** | 13.40 - 15.45 |
| **Venue:** | Room 12, 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** *(Last Name, Name, Function, E-mail, Telephone Number)* | Lo, Sharon, Regional Focal Point (North and Southeast Asia), sharon.lo@childrenyouth.org, +852 91575743 |
| **Name of organizing partnering Institution(s) with their respective base** *(City, Country)* | |
| **Contact Person from partnering Institution(s)** *(Last Name, Name, Function, E-mail, Telephone Number)* | |
| **Approximate number of participants:** | 55 |
| **Number of female participants:** | |
| **Number of male participants:** | |

**1. Summary of the Assembly reflecting the structure and format (max: 800 words)**
This showcase is meant to serve as a launch of the Sustainable Urban Development Youth Initiative (SUDYI) to galvanize efforts towards the Quito Youth Commitments. The showcase present a portfolio of urban Initiatives/Commitments, reflecting the diverse and essential contributions of young people in achieving the New Urban Agenda. This was a TED talk style format; each presenter gave a presentation that would last approximately 10 minutes.

In order, here is a brief summary for each of the 12 talks:

- **DELTA CITIES** – 10% of population live in delta cities. We can prevent disasters in cities through urban development. They held a contest to collect new solutions from youth and children as water sector is quite traditional (old men in suits). Youth can bring more innovation to that sector.
- **U-REPORT -** U-report aids in speaking out on public harassment and helps girls be active citizens of the world. U-report is a social messaging platform where anyone from anywhere can speak out and be heard on issues they care about. If there is a problem a young person is experiencing in the world, we can take the info and inform government and leaders to try do something about it. We identify that violence against girls is what prevents them from equally enjoying their cities. **Q:** Have you looked at alcohol consumption in incidents of public harassment? **A:** Alcohol does not make a rapist, a rapist makes a rapist. Alcohol cannot be seen as a responsible factor for why someone may harass.
- **GENERATION ZERO GROUP -** Founded in 2011. Central purpose is to provide solutions for New Zealand to cut carbon emission through smarter transport, and liveable cities. What we do? Campaigns, online, offline on transit, meeting with counsellors and candidates, then advertise these results online. Focused on local governments, explained major issues to them and proposed actions
- **Auckland's Unitary Plan -** New united council to cover whole of Auckland
  Initial debate: Density advocates shouted down at unitary plan meeting.
  **Our response:**
  o Organize groups to attend community meetings to ensure diversity of voices represented
  o Reach out to media
  o Research messaging used in similar debates around the world
  o Create content that is accessible to young people
  o Created graphics and GIFs to be more appealing to young people
  o Gathered 1500 submissions that helped shift the debate
  o Coalition for more homes: campaign with a wide range of participants, NGOs, student activities, universities and other key figures to publicize the aim of the campaign

  An example of think local and act local. Thinking of what we could do on the ground and get to meet likeminded people to help take action
  **Q**: Issue of homelessness, have you been able to create an impact on that?
  **A:** Currently looking at establishing other initiatives that deal with social issues
- **Training Disaster Medicine Trainers: IFMSA**
  What is a disaster? It is the circumstances of an event like a hurricane or an earthquake, etc. Philosophy of action: An act of discipline. Graduating doctors with no knowledge of disaster medicine, why is education important? To equip doctors to be able to cope with disasters**.** Methods: Peer-peer training under IFMSA turning them into disaster medicine trainers**.** Challenges: Financial resources, this is to students worldwide, not able to support students to come take the training in Italy. Updated curriculum, specifically related to humanitarian response**.** Expectations: introduce disaster education to students, need a medical curriculum, prevention and preparedness, education, communication about new projects, methods, trainings, etc.
- **PhotoVoice**
  o Incremental development children's lives in Quito
  o Comparative study of Lucha & solanda incremental housing

o The community slowly took over the land. They are using 2 different types of methods to research; one traditional method and the other more narrative approach.

o Why photovoice?

o Storytelling, gives a theme behind the photos.

o Why children? They give the most interesting narratives; they give a more present perspective in life as they aren't as familiar with history. Displays a unique development.

o Methodology they used gave them a briefing with basic photography skills, lighting etc. then moved on to teaching them about the narratives behind the photos one takes.

o Favourite places: students chose more social places, more attached towards communal spaces rather than domestic.

o Least favourite: isolated spaces

**Key insights:**

● Youth prefer more social spaces, inclusive spaces that allow for interaction with community.

● **Urban Refugee Youth Consultations -** Engaging urban refugee youth in Europe. Work with young refugees in London from Africa. There is a lack of youth refugee consultations. Recently more than 50% of refugees in Europe have been under 30 so it's a huge demographic. The aim of the urban refugee youth consultations is two-fold, to capture the perspectives of young refugees on urban issues and contribute these to the discussions at habitat III and beyond. In the UK there is a want for youth refugee voices that push for change in policies. Recently in Calais there have been a lot of issues with reuniting young refugees with their families in the UK. **Outcomes**: Individual initiative as it's met by some resistances; even refugees see it as a tickbox exercise rather than an action that will improve their life. Evidence gathered can be used to help with establishing policies that can help refugees get access to education and work. Issues in the long process of seeking asylum in the UK etc we need to look at this displacement and see how we can integrate them because this is a life time displacement. There are a lot of commonalities with refugee youth around the world.

● **UP WITH HOPE -** How many young people have had a third place to go to when home wasn't comfortable? Based in the slums of Kenya, youth are taking back their land by cleaning up their garbage to create new safe spaces for young children to hang out in and just be normal, which is what young people need. The children help with the design process which in turn creates a sense of ownership and empowerment thus creating a strong sense of identity amongst the youth in those areas. Help youth in those areas become leaders through these organisations. Self funding mostly, trying to come up with solutions for the community. We need bigger, helpful, safer spaces for youth.

● **VIMAPRO -** What is the projection network? A network of 750+ young professional that aim to promote original ideas of young professionals by tackling undertreated issues such as failure in development projects and manual pit emptying**.** Manual pit emptying: a disorganized but indispensable informal sector. Only 7% of the people in Africa have access to sanitation. Capacity building programs towards the recognition of entrepreneurs for public health and environment. These people that manually empty the pit face many challenges, not to mention the health issues, sanitation, etc. Vimapro are providing them with equipment, vaccinations, and social entrepreneurs to help them build business models for their activities. This project crosscuts SDG 3,6,8,11,13**.** Protecting the environment, finding solutions to existing problems related to all main aspects of life, especially in informal settlements and slums. The solution is autonomous sanitation.

- **Waitemata Youth Collective -** Auckland, New Zealand. 24% of New Zealand are young people**.** Vision is to see young people on local government issues as part of the solution**.** Papers with cheap places to eat, public spaces, places to study, places to worship was printed and distributed around the city, an app is currently being developed. This is extremely useful for new students moving into the cities. This is very useful in a way of making a better use of technology.
- **Youth and City Diplomacy, Materializing the NUA-**
  o City Diplomacy: an alternative for global cooperation
  o The obstacle of global cooperation; sovereign obligation
  o Cities share this common interest to bring citizens tangible outcomes
  o The local pathways Fellowship: Empowering Youth to Champion the SDGs:
  o Without local governments' commitment, the NUA is merely a symbol
  o SDG Cities for youth: practical tools for the Youth Fellows to get started, basically addressing the questions of what can I do? And how can we achieve that
  o SDG Academy: On boarding Training for the youth fellows
  o Young Urban SDG Advocates: Securing Local Governments' Commitment: Youth Fellows to understand local governments' methodology of working
  o What and how: Empowering Youth to champion Local Pathways
  o UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and SDSN Youth: Empowering Youth globally to create solutions for sustainable development.
- **Solid Ground -** Whether you are living in a sky scraper in New York or a settlement in Brazil, land is always at your feet and it is when you are up in the air that you realise how important land is to you. We all depend on land for shelter, this campaign aims at having everyone around the world no matter age or gender or race to have adequate housing and shelter. Global goals to ensure access to shelter to all by 2030, making sure those cities continue to have a positive effect on people's lives. <u>Lodging, labour and land = spiritual freedom.</u> When one is taken away then freedom is taken away, we need the interconnectivity of them all to experience the freedom. To be a good neighbour you need to be a global neighbour. A small team decided to create first global advocacy group Solid Ground.
  Four pillars:
  o Gender and property rights – woman who have abusive husband or widowed, how different would our cities be if woman had equal rights in owning land.
  o Secure Tenure – what if people didn't have to live in fear of someone knocking on their door and telling them you can't live there any longer.
  o Slums – how to turn them into a sustainable urban living
  o Disaster resilience – homes are lost and destroyed when natural disasters happen, how can homes in the future be stronger against that.

Millennials have the power to change the world. Twitter revolutions have had power over governmental changes.

- **Safer cities for girls -** Developing for the past 5 years ways to solve problems woman face. Girls feel unsafe while going to school. In India 94% of girls don't feel safe in the city and in Cairo girls felt that they could noy speak in front of older or authoritarian men. In order for cities to feel inclusive and safe girls must feel safe. Focused on girls from what the research has told us.  Need to work with families to make the public space a responsibility of all, and of course looking at the influence of government who are youth blind at times.  How can we translate the voices of the youth who the authorities fail to hear or listen to. The authorities themselves only engaged in the process if there is a very structural way of communicating.

However, from the research gathered girls feel that there should be more flexible ways of communicating with the government. Girls' voices must be strengthened to build safe, inclusive, and accountable cities. The girls themselves have to gather data to then take to the government, a very powerful stance. Any change that is actually sustainable has to start from the voices of the young girls who want a change in their life.

**2. Key messages from the discussions.**
- Quito is just the start, what we are doing here is the easy part. Next we have to implement the agenda to achieve these new implementations happening here.
- Young people are already pioneering initiatives to respond to the urban challenges faced in their communities and abroad. These initiatives will be essential to the implementation of the NUA at a local level.
- With this session what we realised is that the urban discussion is very raw. What we are interested in doing with this initiative is bring together a group of like minded people to work together to build a platform of young practitioners (scientists, engineers, planners, and innovators) to work as a youth constituency and society to help build contribute to the implementation, follow-up, and review of the New Urban Agenda at all levels

**3. Action-oriented recommendations/ way forward in the framework of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda [key points only, including specific global, regional and local actions].**

Young people are at the forefront of innovation, problem solving, and adaptation - especially in regions of rapid urbanization. They are actively working on developing innovative solutions - whether through formal or informal ways - to overcome challenges and promote urban resilience. Young practitioners (scientists, engineers, practitioners, etc.) should have institutionalized roles within the implementation, follow-up, and review mechanisms of the New Urban Agenda, especially through the already established constituencies and building on the work done by Major Groups and Other Stakeholders in the process up to Quito.

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

All of the above are commitments which those partners and organisations will implement.

The UN MGCY Habitat III Working Group will develop an interdisciplinary team of young practitioners in order to coordinate efforts around the SUDYI and facilitate meaningful engagement of young people around the world. Notably, four of the main areas of work are the following:

a) Sustainable Urban Development Youth Initiative website - featuring initiatives & commitments of young people around sustainable urban.
b) Contributions to UN MGCY SPI Publication & Relevant Conferences - identifying emerging issues, best practices, and present progress in relevant spaces.
c) Enhancing the Science-Policy Interface - making proper linkages with science, technology, and innovation applications within the UN and further supporting an evidence-based approach to policy design, implementation, and review.
d) Building Coherence between the NUA and urban dimension of other sustainable development agendas.

**5. Way forward and next steps on monitoring the implementation of the outcomes and the commitments from the Assembly.**
- Collect youth projects and design them around the regions where they will be implemented.
- Develop an action plan for achieving the above four areas of focus.

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

Partnerships, networks, and synergies will be made with youth groups and those working with young people on a range of topics related to sustainable urban development in order to adequately capture the practical projects being implemented at the global, national, and local level. This will help youth with opportunities, as well as showcase our efforts as a youth constituency.

Other synergies with groups such as ICSU, Habitat for Humanity, and more will be explored.

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

The open, inclusive nature of the Habitat III WG within UN MGCY allows for a conducive platform to share information and opportunities related to the SUDYI program. Furthermore, networks of national and local organizations will be used to spread implementation plans for the SUDYI, as part of the larger Quito Youth Commitments.

**8. Any other relevant comments or outcome from the session not covered above.**

**9. Detail information of speakers/presenters/moderators (add as many as applicable):**

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