



United Nations

— HABITAT III —
NETWORKING EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of lead organization	Union for the Mediterranean
City and country where lead organization is based	Barcelona
Title of the event	Union for the Mediterranean – Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI): Towards a New Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean Region
Date of Networking Event	10/18/2016
Networking Event room number	R12
Name of partner organizations with city and country where these organizations are based	Union for the Mediterranean, Barcelona, Spain ; Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Paris, France ; European Investment Bank (EIB), Luxembourg ; UN-HABITAT, Kenia, Nairobi
Number of participants	100
Percentage of women participants	40%



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Background information on Networking Event (themes, issues, context).

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-to-push-forward-a-new-urban-agenda-for-the-mediterranean-region/> Quito, 18 October 2016 - On the fringes of the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), in cooperation with the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and European Investment Bank (EIB), organised the “Union for the Mediterranean – Urban Project Finance Initiative (UPFI): Towards a New Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean region” networking event in Quito on 18 October 2016. The UfM-UPFI networking event brought together more than 100 participants, including several ministers from UfM Member States, representatives from international and regional organisations and IFIs, key urban development actors in the Mediterranean and partners involved in UPFI initiative, as well as potential partners, in order to develop future regional programmes and projects, with a view to addressing the region’s demographic and environmental challenges. The networking event was a timely opportunity to take stock of UPFI’s success story, which was one of the main deliverables of the First UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development, held in Strasbourg in 2011. It also raised awareness of the added value of the UPFI initiative and its related UfM-labelled projects. In addition, it provided an opportunity to discuss the best tools for implementing a “New Urban Agenda for the Mediterranean region”, ahead of the Second UfM Ministerial Conference on Sustainable Urban Development, which is to be held in Egypt in spring 2017, and in consideration of major regional and international milestones in that regard. UPFI is an innovative initiative funded by the European Commission and jointly managed by the AFD and EIB, under the auspices of the UfM. It is aimed at identifying and selecting flagship sustainable urban development projects likely to be politically endorsed (labelled) by the UfM Member States and financed and implemented in the short term. Keynote speakers at the UfM-UPFI networking event included, among others, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Salah Arfaoui, Tunisia’s Minister of Equipment, Housing and Territorial Development; H.E. Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Egypt’s Deputy Minister for Housing, Utilities and Urban Development; Mr. Jan Vapaavuori, EIB Vice-President; and Ambassador Ihab Fahmy, UfM Deputy Secretary General. All agreed that, in view of the increasing magnitude of the common challenges in the Mediterranean, the event was a timely opportunity to develop and strengthen synergies and complementarities amongst key stakeholders and to assess the perspectives for working together in the years to come. EIB Vice-President Mr. Jan Vapaavuori said that “the Union for the Mediterranean provides a strong political momentum for the visibility of the Urban Project Finance Initiative drawing on its relationships with the Mediterranean countries and by labelling projects to confirm their quality. The EIB is involved in several key projects in the region and is aiming to appraise and finance them in 2017.” UfM Deputy Secretary General Ihab Fahmy said that “it is high time for common responses to the pressing challenges facing urban areas in the Mediterranean region, following a holistic approach that ensures urban sustainability and a greater socio-economic impact on the ground, through effective and concrete action towards a better future for the Mediterranean region.” The Habitat III Conference was an historic opportunity to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanisation and to focus on the implementation of a New Urban Agenda. It was the first time in 20 years that the international community, led by national governments, took collective stock of fast-changing urban trends and the ways in which these patterns are impacting human development, environmental well-being and governance systems worldwide. The conference resulted in an action-oriented outcome document, the New Urban Agenda, which will lay the groundwork for policies and approaches and will guide urbanisation efforts for the next 20 years.



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<p>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed.</p>	<p>http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-to-push-forward-a-new-urban-agenda-for-the-mediterranean-region/ 16:30-16:40 Opening Remarks Amb. Ihab Fahmy, Deputy Secretary General, UfM Secretariat 16:40-16:50 Urban Projects Finance Initiative (UPFI) as a Model of Partnership Mr. Jan Vapaavuori, Vice-President, European Investment Bank 16:50-17:00 Keynote Speech H.E. Mr. Mohammed Salah Arfaoui, Minister of Equipment, Housing and Territorial Development, Republic of Tunisia 17:00-17:10 Keynote Speech H.E. Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Vice Minister for Housing, Utilities and Urban Development, Arab Republic of Egypt 17:10-17:20 State-of-Play of UPFI Ms. Anne Odic, Head of Local Authorities and Urban Development Division, Agence Française de Développement 17:20-17:30 Presentation of UPFI Projects labelled by the UfM Ms. Victoria Jimenez, Project Manager for Urban Development, UfM Secretariat 17:30-17:40 Reflexion on how UPFI will contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda Mr. Esteban León, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-Habitat City Resilience Profiling Programme 17:40-18:30 Open Discussion</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 1st speaker</p>	<p>Ambassador Ihab Fahmy Egyptian Deputy Secretary General Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat ihab.fahmy@ufmsecretariat.org</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 2nd speaker</p>	<p>Mr. Jan Vapaavuori, European Investment Bank Vice-President</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 3rd speaker</p>	<p>H.E. Mr. Mohammed Salah Arfaoui, Ministry of Equipment, Housing and Territorial Development, Republic of Tunisia Minister</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 4th speaker</p>	<p>H.E. Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Ministry for Housing, Utilities and Urban Development, Arab Republic of Egypt Vice Minister</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 5th speaker</p>	<p>Ms. Anne Odic French Agence Française de Développement; Head of Local Authorities and Urban Development Division, Agence Française de Développement; odica@afd.fr</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 6th speaker</p>	<p>Ms. Victoria Jimenez Spanish Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat Project Manager for Urban Development victoria.jimenez@ufmsecretariat.org</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 7th speaker</p>	<p>Mr. Esteban León Bolivian UN-Habitat City Resilience Profiling Programme Chief Technical Advisor Esteban.Leon@unhabitat.org</p>