



# Summary of Parallel Events

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## **WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER**

### ***PARALLEL EVENT 1: International Grassroots Academy in preparation for Habitat III***

**OVERVIEW:** This parallel event provided a workshop for participants working with grassroots women's organisations. **Lead:** Huairou Commission.

**SUMMARY:** The International Grassroots Academy session, organised by the Hairou Commission, was designed to support mobilisation, knowledge sharing and strategy development with the aim of ensuring the concerns of grassroots women's organisations are represented in global advocacy.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The event supports the National Urban Agenda (NUA)'s emphasis on a fundamental transformation of gender inequalities and the prioritisation of women's rights in areas such as mobility, livelihoods and security.

## **THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER**

### ***PARALLEL EVENT 2: Stories behind urbanisation and growth***

**OVERVIEW:** This exhibition provided an accessible introduction to Kinshasa, Lima and Yangon. **Lead:** Future Cities.

**SUMMARY:** This event staged a multimedia presentation on the vitality, aspirations and emerging potential of three cities – Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), Lima (Peru) and Yangon (Myanmar). This exhibition included photos, audio and video to provide audiences with an immersive experience.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This exhibition helped promote greater public awareness of the challenges facing cities worldwide, but also their unrealised potential – opportunities that that the NUA plans to engage through more inclusive and sustainable urban policies.

### ***PARALLEL EVENT 3: Future cities***

**OVERVIEW:** This event presented an innovative journalistic approach to covering global urban issues. **Lead:** Future Cities.


**SUMMARY:** This session showcased the work of three Dutch journalists, Stephanie Bakker, Yvonne Brandwijk and Lisette van Rhijn, using three world cities as case studies, to show how innovative and multimedia approaches can help bring to life the lived experience of urbanisation in these places.


**IMPLEMENTATION:** Engaging new technologies and platforms for journalism helps encourage greater public understanding and dialogue about the issues affecting cities – a prerequisite for informed and democratic urban decision making.

### ***PARALLEL EVENT 4: The urban fabric***

**OVERVIEW:** This event provided participants with the opportunity to create an emotional map of their city. **Lead:** The Urban Fabric.

**SUMMARY:** The Urban Fabric is a public intervention that allows people to mark places of significance on a hand-embroidered map of their city. Responding to a variety of questions, participants pinpointed areas they associated with fear, attachment or other emotions with symbols, creating a detailed geography of their subjective experiences of the city.





**IMPLEMENTATION:** This technique is highly participatory and provides citizens with an immediate interface to explore and express their connections to the city, making it an effective tool to engage people in broader urban concerns.

**PARALLEL EVENT 5: Official opening of three Habitat III exhibitions at the City Museum**

**OVERVIEW:** The United Nations (UN) showcased three exhibitions at Quito's City Museum exploring various topics related to urbanisation. **Lead:** UN. **Partners:** Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Ecuador; City Museums Foundation.

**SUMMARY:** The UN opened three special exhibitions at City Museum. These were 'Quito, dynamics of an Andean city' (*Quito, dinamicas de una ciudad andina*), 'Future cities' (*Ciudades de futuro*) and 'The urban fabric' (*El tejido urbano*).

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The exhibitions provided local and international audiences with an accessible introduction to urbanisation issues in Quito and beyond.

**FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER**

**PARALLEL EVENT 6: International Grassroots Academy in preparation for Habitat III**

**OVERVIEW:** This was a follow on event from the first session earlier in the week. **Lead:** Hairou Commission.

**SUMMARY:** This event built on the work of the first session, with the aim of ensuring grassroots women's perspectives are visible in global policy platforms.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The event supports the NUA's emphasis on a fundamental transformation of gender inequalities and the prioritisation of women's rights in areas such as mobility, livelihoods and security.

**PARALLEL EVENT 7: World Urban Campaign dinner**

**OVERVIEW:** This was a special dinner organised by the World Urban Campaign. **Lead:** UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).


**SUMMARY:** The World Urban Campaign, comprising more than 160 non-governmental partners, organised a dinner for invitees to socialise.


**SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER**

**PARALLEL EVENT 8: Dreaming up the city we want to live in**

**OVERVIEW:** This workshop allowed participants to creatively express their ideas for a more sustainable urban future through mask making. **Lead:** UN Environment. **Partners:** Art of Change 21; The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC); World Health Organisation (WHO).

**SUMMARY:** Maskbook is an experimental initiative designed by Art of Change 21 to allow urban residents to express their ideas for a low carbon, sustainable future creatively. Participants were encouraged to decorate an anti-pollution mask – normally a potent symbol of anxiety – using recycled materials and were then photographed in their finished work.





**IMPLEMENTATION:** Maskbook is an imaginative way to engage citizens in discussions around sustainability, social justice and the environment through an unusual, artistic medium that appeals to a wide audience.

***PARALLEL EVENT 9: 16th World Urban Campaign Steering Committee Meeting (WUC SCM16)***

**OVERVIEW:** The World Urban Campaign's latest Steering Committee Meeting took place ahead of Habitat III. **Lead:** UN-Habitat.

**SUMMARY:** The World Urban Campaign, coordinated by UN-Habitat, includes more than 160 partners and serves as an advocacy platform for inclusive, sustainable urban change. As part of its work, it hosts a regular series of Steering Committee Meetings to bring together members. The latest session was scheduled ahead of Habitat III to enable partners to discuss the implementation of the NUA and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The World Urban Campaign's collaboration represents a positive example of the partnership-based approach advocated by the NUA and its spirit of cooperation to develop shared solutions.

***PARALLEL EVENT 10: General Assembly of Partners Executive Committee***

**OVERVIEW:** The executive committee of the World Urban Campaign's General Assembly of Partners was held in the build up to Habitat III. **Lead:** General Assembly of Partners.

**SUMMARY:** The General Assembly of Partners was initiated in 2014 by the World Urban Campaign and is now coordinated by the Habitat III Secretariat. This event brought together its executive committee.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The Executive Committee is made up of a broad base of members of the World Urban Campaign, including UN staff, international NGO representatives, academics and activist organisations. This composition reflects the NUA's emphasis on diversity and an intersectional perspective to urban problem solving.

**SUNDAY, 16 OCTOBER**

***PARALLEL EVENT 11: 16th World Urban Campaign Steering Committee Meeting (WUC SCM16)***

**OVERVIEW:** The second session of the World Urban Campaign's latest Steering Committee Meeting ahead of Habitat III. **Lead:** UN-Habitat.

**SUMMARY:** This event followed on from the first session of the World Urban Campaign's 16<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meetings the day before.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The World Urban Campaign's collaboration represents a positive example of the partnership-based approach advocated by the NUA and its spirit of cooperation to develop shared solutions.

***PARALLEL EVENT 12: El Global Compact y su rol frente a la Nueva Agenda Urbana a través de los ODS***

**OVERVIEW:** This event discussed the role of the Global Compact in furthering the NUA and the SDGs. **Lead:** UN Global Compact and Red Ecuador.





**SUMMARY:** The session brought together leaders of different Global Compact local networks to exchange their experiences and explore how their work could be connected to the objectives and mechanisms of the NUA and SDGs.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This event supports closer connections between the NUA and other development initiatives – an important element in ensuring a more efficient and integrated approach to poverty reduction in the years ahead.

**PARALLEL EVENT 13: Habitat + Social Good**

**OVERVIEW:** This one-day event brought together a wide range of panels and conversations on different aspects of urban inclusion and sustainability. **Lead:** IMPAQTO (Social Innovation Lab and Coworking Space in Quito). **Partners:** UN Foundation.

**SUMMARY:** This diverse and collaborative event featured a series of discussions and presentations from social entrepreneurs, community representatives, communicators and activists on how to make cities more liveable and equitable. It brought together a wide network of urban innovators to share ideas on different solutions to the shared challenges of urbanisation.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This event fostered partnerships and collaboration across different disciplines to encourage innovative perspectives on how cities can be improved in the coming years of the NUA.

**PARALLEL EVENT 14: Partnership on Sustainable Urban and Territorial Development**

**OVERVIEW:** This event examined the role of partnerships between different stakeholders to enhance urban and territorial developments outcomes. **Lead:** UN-Habitat.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This session aligns with the NUA's calls for a more integrated, region-wide approach to urban governance that focuses not only on cities themselves, but also their surrounding territories.

**PARALLEL EVENT 15: High Level Meeting and Forum on disability inclusion and accessible urban development**


**OVERVIEW:** This event hosted discussions between various stakeholders on how to effectively integrate the needs of persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups into the implementation of the NUA. **Lead:** The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) through its Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MIDUVI) of the Government of the Republic of Ecuador. **Partners:** Essl Foundation; Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments; Habitat III Secretariat; Rehabilitation International; The Global Network on Disability Inclusion and Accessible Urban Development and Disabled People's International; The Nippon Foundation; UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility.


**SUMMARY:** The objective of the forum was to bring together a range of experts, policy makers and stakeholders to share knowledge and discuss practical steps to mainstream the concerns of persons with disabilities and other excluded groups into urban policies.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The outcomes of the session support the NUA's provisions on social inclusion and participation for all urban stakeholders, particularly its emphasis on the multiple forms of discrimination that persons with disabilities face.

**PARALLEL EVENT 16: Planning for clean, green and healthy cities**

**OVERVIEW:** This event explored the ways that planning can promote better health outcomes in cities by creating safer and more sanitary urban environments. **Lead:** Government of Norway.





**SUMMARY:** From air quality and the character of their built environment to transportation and food supply, cities have a strong influence on the physical and mental wellbeing of their residents. This session examined the different tools that planners have at their disposal to positively influence the social, environmental and economic factors that determine health.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The findings provide an important resource on how the latest scientific evidence on public health can be integrated into planning decisions, in line with the NUA's emphasis on achieving improved health outcomes through better urban management and design.

***PARALLEL EVENT 17: Achieving sustainable new town development in developing countries***

**OVERVIEW:** This event provided a platform for experts to discuss the challenges of new town development in developing countries and ways forward to improve their performance. **Lead:** UN- Habitat; Korea Land and Housing Institute (LHI); International New Town Institute (INTI).

**SUMMARY:** While the number of new towns in developing countries has been rising rapidly in the last decade, with governments applying them as a tool to house growing urban populations and encourage decentralisation, many of them have suffered from poorly chosen locations, low density and a lack of public services. This session facilitated discussions and idea sharing among participants to generate inputs for the development of a forthcoming policy guide on new town development.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** By promoting better understanding of the potential difficulties new towns can encounter and how these issues can be avoided, the event will help establish a sound knowledge base to guide policy makers in developing countries to plan them in line with the recommendations of the NUA.

***PARALLEL EVENT 18: Urban Labs Movie and Debate: Urban Planning at work in Ghana, Myanmar, Philippines, Gaza, Mexico***

**OVERVIEW:** This session premiered a documentary highlighting the innovative work of UN-Habitat's Urban Labs in five different countries. **Lead:** UN-Habitat.

**SUMMARY:** Urban Labs are a UN-Habitat initiative undertaken in partnership with Creative Industries Fund NL and local stakeholders, piloting innovative design and planning approaches across the world. This session presents a documentary, 'Urban Labs: Urban Planning at work in Ghana, Myanmar, Philippines, Gaza, Mexico', showcasing their achievements in five different countries.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This event highlights the significant role that creative and experimental urban design can play in responding to the many challenges facing cities today.

***PARALLEL EVENT 19: General Assembly of Partners Plenary Meeting***

**OVERVIEW:** This event brings together the World Urban Campaign's General Assembly of Partners for their Plenary meeting. **Lead:** General Assembly of Partners.

**SUMMARY:** Following on from previous sessions earlier in the week by the World Urban Campaign and its General Assembly of Partners, this session staged their Plenary Meeting.





**IMPLEMENTATION:** The Plenary Meeting provided all members of the General Assembly of Partners the opportunity to review their work and discuss next steps in their efforts to support the creation of greener and more inclusive cities worldwide.

***PARALLEL EVENT 20: World Urban Campaign dinner***

**OVERVIEW:** This was a social event organised by the World Urban Campaign. **Lead:** World Urban Campaign.

**MONDAY, 17 OCTOBER**

***PARALLEL EVENT 21: Sharing good practices in promoting urban inclusion and non-discrimination***

**OVERVIEW:** This panel discussion focused on the continued reality of discrimination in cities, and offered guidance on how it can be addressed. **Lead:** UNESCO and the Canadian Commission For UNESCO. **Partners:** Intendencia de Montevideo; Municipality of Quito.

**SUMMARY:** In a context of continued poverty, inequality and division, discrimination remains entrenched in many urban contexts. This session hosted the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities panel to share lessons learned and exchange ideas on how discrimination can be effectively tackled to support the NUA.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The outputs from this session are intended to provide mayors and policy makers with a set of good practices to help them promote more inclusive urbanisation and end discrimination, as advocated by the NUA.

**TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER**

***PARALLEL EVENT 22: The 11th Global Forum on Human Settlements & Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Award Ceremony 2016***

**OVERVIEW:** Through a range of activities, this event explored different aspects of compact design and its contribution to social and environmental wellbeing. **Lead:** Global Forum on Human Settlements.


**SUMMARY:** This one-day conference focused on the benefits of compact urban design and related issues including heritage, tourism and the situation of women and children. Through presentations, exhibitions, site visits and an award ceremony, it aimed to provoke discussion among global stakeholders on how to promote more sustainable urban development.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This event promoted dialogue and collaboration on how to take practical steps to support progress of the NUA.

***PARALLEL EVENT 23: Re-energising cities: Renewable energy in urban settings***

**OVERVIEW:** This session looked at the opportunities cities now have to move to renewable energy sources and the ways this transition can be achieved. **Lead:** International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA); Governments of Ecuador, Germany and the United Arab Emirates.

**SUMMARY:** This event brought together a variety of stakeholders to highlight best practices, exchange ideas and present case studies to illustrate how cities can make the transition to renewable energy. With falling costs and advanced technologies to power transport and buildings, it highlighted how cities could begin their process of transformation to renewable energy.





**IMPLEMENTATION:** The guidance from this session will provide a valuable resource for urban policy makers and investors on how to implement the NUA's call for a transition to renewable energy supplies.

**PARALLEL EVENT 24: *Family capital and the SDGs - Implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals***

**OVERVIEW:** This event was the formal launch of a new book exploring the potential of families as a unit to further progress of the SDGs.

**Lead:** Howard Center for Family Religion and Society. **Partners:** United Families International.

**SUMMARY:** This session presented *Family Capital and the SDGs*, a book that aims to reinvigorate discussion of the unlocked potential of the family unit – a dimension, it argues, long overlooked within UN discourse – to improve understanding of how family capital can be mobilised effectively to support development agendas.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The findings have implications for how urban development programmes are designed and provide important considerations on how interventions can support the NUA in reducing poverty particularly among excluded groups such as women and children.

**PARALLEL EVENT 25: *Engaging critical populations in environmental sustainability: People of faith, women and girls, and indigenous families***

**OVERVIEW:** This event focused on the intersection between climate change, religious values and urbanisation, with a particular emphasis on gender and indigenous peoples. **Lead:** Big Ocean. **Partners:** Choice Humanitarian Ecuador.

**SUMMARY:** This session explored the implications of climate change and other environmental challenges on human ethics, particularly in urban settlements. Among other areas, it focused on the intersection between religious values and sustainability, including the engagement of faith leaders in environmental activism, the importance of gender and the impacts of urbanisation on indigenous families.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The discussions offered a useful perspective on how connections between religious belief and environmental activism can be used to engage vulnerable urban population.

**PARALLEL EVENT 26: *Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) - 4th Meeting of the 5th Bureau of APMCHUD***

**OVERVIEW:** This session brought together the 5<sup>th</sup> Bureau of APMCHUD for their 4<sup>th</sup> meeting on housing and urban development.

**Lead:** Secretariat of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development.


**SUMMARY:** APMCHUD was set up by governments in the Asia-Pacific to promote partnerships and collaboration between countries in the region. This event was the latest in series of meetings by its 5<sup>th</sup> Bureau, currently chaired by the Republic of Korea and represented by a number of other states.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This event continued the inter-governmental work of APMCHUD and its engagement in housing and urban development policies in the Asia-Pacific

**PARALLEL EVENT 27: *Trafficking and the New Urban Agenda***







**OVERVIEW:** This event featured presentations on the urban dimensions of human trafficking and how they can be effectively addressed. **Lead:** Operation Underground Railroad.

**SUMMARY:** Operation Underground Railroad is a non-profit that focuses on the rescue of trafficking victims and the disruption of the criminal networks that engage in the practice. This session brings their perspective on its urban dimensions and how it can be combatted.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** By focusing on trafficking victims, the session extends the NUA's emphasis on the protection of vulnerable groups and its related provisions on migrants, refugees and the displaced.

### **THURSDAY, 20 OCTOBER**

#### ***PARALLEL EVENT 28: Habitat Professionals Forum meeting***

**OVERVIEW:** This event was a meeting for Habitat Professionals Forum members to discuss the New Urban Agenda and elect the organisation's next Chair. **Lead:** Habitat Professionals Forum.

**SUMMARY:** Habitat Professionals Forum was established following Habitat II to bring together a global pool of urban researchers and practitioners. Since then it has held regular meetings at UN events to engage on urbanisation issues. This meeting provided them with an opportunity to discuss the NUA and elect their next Chair.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** This session continues Habitat Professionals Forum's work and its important partnerships between UN-Habitat and other urban specialists.

#### ***PARALLEL EVENT 29: HESI Global meeting of Universities: Action Plan for Universities to maximize impact of higher education in the sustainability of urbanisation***

**OVERVIEW:** This event looked at the ways that the education can contribute to sustainable urban development through the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI.) **Lead:** UNEP and UN-Habitat.

**SUMMARY:** Drawing on the conclusions and recommendations of a series of high-level meetings on education and urban sustainability, including the Working Group of Higher Education for Urban Sustainability at the Habitat III Europe Regional Meeting in Prague in March 2016, this session showcased an action plan for universities. This included detailed guidance on how educational institutions can actively urban sustainability.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** The action plan will provide an important framework to engage higher education institutions in the struggle for urban sustainability. This aligns with the NUA's repeated references to the academic community as an important constituency in this process.

