Urban Dialogue on the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda during Intersessional Process

Period: May to July

This online dialogue was a series that took place in three parts from May to July 2016 throughout the intersessional process—covering Informal Hearings with Local Authorities Associations, Informal Hearings with Stakeholder Groups, and Informal Intergovernmental Meetings—in the lead-up to PrepCom3. During this series, individuals and organizations from around the world were invited to provide feedback on the Zero Draft of New Urban Agenda. The two main topics of the dialogue were A. Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development and B. Effective Implementation.

PART 1: URBAN DIALOGUE ON THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Main topics of this Urban Dialogue A:
The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development:

Moderators:
i. Collen Thouez - Senior Research and Training Advisor, UNITAR from the US
ii. Edmundo Werna - Head of Unit, Sectoral Policies Department, ILO, Geneva
iii. David Jackson - Director of Local Development Finance at UNCDF, US

Sub-Topic 1. Sustainable urban development for social inclusion & ending poverty:
Based on provided discussions, the Joint Migration and Development Initiative is therefore supporting local and regional authorities to build their capacities to do so and to show that the local dimension of migration management is a crucial success factor for sustainable urban development.
There is a need to ensure that the positive linkages between migration, displacement and sustainable urban development are well established in the New Urban Agenda in order to reflect the benefits of migration when well managed at the local level.
Indeed, the good management of human mobility and the extent to which this in integrated into the Prague Declaration and New Urban Agenda will determine how well we will be able to ensure the various other aspects and goals of the same, such as mitigating urban poverty, managing demographic changes and tackling urban sprawl.
Human mobility is first and foremost an urban phenomenon whereby cities are finding themselves increasingly at the forefront of managing human mobility both in terms of internal migration, forced displacement and international migration.
Recommendations:
i. The NUA should promote an enabling environment and framework conditions in cities that facilitate the positive contributions of migrants to urban development (economic, social and cultural) and the potential of urban migration to strengthen rural-urban linkages through economic activity, financial exchanges, skills and knowledge transfer, etc.

ii. In this regard, both the value of transversal inclusion of migration in different urban sector policies as well as promote targeted measures to address the protection of rights and specific vulnerabilities of migrants, refugees, and displaced persons should be recognized.
iii. The NUA should promote the inclusion of anticipated population and migration trends in global, national

and local urban development plans in order to enhance the resilience and capacities of cities to absorb and effectively govern population growth.

iv. The NUA should promote the coordination and coherence of urban migration governance and policies at all policy levels (global – national – local) and must especially confirm the indispensable role of cities.

v. Further, inclusive participation of all relevant stakeholders, especially local authorities, local private sector, local civil society, and migrant communities must be ensured in designing urban migration policy frameworks.

Sub-Topic 2. Sustainable & inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all

The Zero Draft will add an important new dimension which is not captured by notions of justice and inclusiveness. It also suggests the importance of both rights and responsibilities; a responsibility to be ethical leaders, local governments, corporations, business people and citizens. The ethical approach to cities requires that "what the right thing to do is" whether about municipal leadership, planning, local businesses, and citizen engagement.

General Points:

i. From a perspective of promoting prosperity and opportunities via better urban livelihoods.

ii. An issue for the next round would be to further define what is indeed transformative in the Agenda, and what needs to be improved.

i. To bear in mind the whole organizational structure of the Agenda, to have doable implementation.

According to the Nellon Saule, Junior Lawyer, General Coordinator from Brazil, the city as a common contains the following components:

i. A city of inclusive citizenship in which all inhabitants, whether permanent or transitional, are considered as citizens and granted equal rights; e.g. women, those living in poverty or situations of environmental risk, informal economy workers, ethnic and religious groups, LGBT persons, the differently abled, children, youth, the elderly, migrants, refugees, street dwellers, victims of violence and indigenous peoples.

ii. A city of gender equality which adopts all necessary measures to combat discrimination in all its forms against women, men, and LGBT people in political, social, economic and cultural terms; a city which takes all appropriate measures to ensure the full development of women, to guarantee them equality in the exercise and fulfilment of fundamental human rights, and a life free of violence.

iii. A city with quality public spaces that enhances social interactions and political participation, promotes socio-cultural expressions, embraces diversity, and fosters social cohesion; a city where public spaces contribute to building safer cities and to meeting the needs of urban dwellers.

iv. A city fulfilling its social functions, that is, ensuring equitable access for all to shelter, goods, services and urban opportunities, particularly for women and other marginalized groups; a city that prioritizes the collectively defined public interest, ensuring a socially just and environmentally balanced use of urban and rural spaces.

Recommendations:

i. The focus should be on people and the planet

ii. A stronger focus on health and wellbeing

iii. The Draft fails to present the "radical paradigm shift" that it calls for

A radical paradigm shift is one in which we acknowledge that:

1) Cities should be focused on ensuring a high and equitable level of human development while

2) Living within the constraints of the one small planet that is our shared home.

Sub-Topic 3. Foster ecological & resilient cities & human settlements

Foundation-International network on urban agriculture and food system highlighted that in order for local and (sub)national governments and city region nutrition sensitive food systems to play an effective role in shaping sustainable urban and rural territories, the NUA should encourage planning instruments,

governance mechanisms addressing cross-sectoral integration as well as improving horizontal and vertical government collaboration, while ensuring direct multi-stakeholder participation and governance from urban and rural consumers and producers, civil society, research organizations and the local private sector in the design, implementation and monitoring of city region food policies and programmers.

Furthermore, support to vulnerable urban and rural consumers that can be facilitated through food procurement, price regulation, recovery and redistribution of safe and nutritious food for human consumption social support programmers, education and lifelong learning programmers.

Recommendations:

The provision of a well-connected network of open and green public spaces in central and peripheral urban areas, facilitating linkages with and access to the surrounding natural environment and cultural landscape, can improve public health and contribute to the quality of life and well-being of all people, through increased leisure and physical activity, while protecting and improving the urban ecosystem and the services it provides, and mitigating climate change risks such as urban heat island, among others.

Main topics of this Urban Dialogue B:

Effective Implementation

Sub-topic 1. Building the urban structure: Establishing a supportive, sub-national and local framework.
Sub-topic 2. Planning and managing the urban spatial development.
Sub-topic 3. Enhancing means of implementation of new urban agenda: Financing and other tools of implementation.

Moderators:

Muna Albanna-Regional Infrastructure Lead, UNOPS, Jordan
Vito Intini - Programme Manager, United States

Lessons learnt from these case studies for the sustainable development of city region food systems call for local, city regional and (sub)national governments to institutionalize city region food systems, providing them an institutional setting and budget, linking them to larger city region development plans and monitoring their developmental impacts across urban and rural areas. The (implementation of the) New Urban Agenda should define the development of sustainable city region food systems among the recommended and supported implementation actions for more sustainable development and integrated urban and rural territorial planning and management. City region food systems offer concrete policy and program opportunities within which multiple development goals can be addressed and through which rural and urban areas and communities in each city region are directly linked. Considering the general policies of the national government a first draft UCEEP to complement the 2030 agenda, for urban settlement equipped with detailed evacuation plans for facilitating and handling a climate crisis as seen in every continent on the planet." This strategy first draft working paper was developed as city adoption to Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. City region food systems are vital to implementation of the New Urban Agenda and balanced urban and rural spatial planning.

Recommendations:

i. Cities will work with their stakeholders to agree (2020) on a New Urban Agenda Strategy and Action Plan (to be achieved by 2030) with their national authorities.

ii. The countries consolidate the Strategy and Action Plans from their participating cities and present these to UN-Habitat for a global consolidation in 2020.

iii. Subsequently, the countries report periodically on the progress by their cities in implementing their agreed

New Urban Agenda Strategy and Action Plans.

iv. The UN-Habitat periodically reports progress based on the reports it receives.

By quoting Ban Ki-moon who said that "The struggle for global sustainability will be won or lost in cities". Among the most critical pending issues that need to be addressed in these countries are the following: (i) clarifying the distribution of responsibilities vertically (i.e. among the various levels of government); (ii) strengthening the resource base of local governments; (iii) when, and upon which conditions, to allow local governments to access financial markets.

Comments from the World Vision International

i. While there is adequate discussion of urban water management and encouragement of the adequate management of waste, the zero draft fails to identify the urgency of urban sanitation management – an issue area that poses one of the greatest risks to the long term public health of urban communities in many developing countries' urban areas.

ii. The zero draft does not adequately identify the centrality of a child's access to quality education (without the need to participate in the workforce), as a key to break the urban poverty cycle and improve their health and wellbeing outcomes.

PART 2: URBAN DIALOGUE ON THE ZERO DRAFT OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Main Topic A:
The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development

- **Sub-topic 1**. Leave no one behind, urban equity and poverty eradication
- **Sub-topic 2.** Sustainable and Inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all
- **Sub-topic 3.** Foster ecological and resilient and human settlements.

Moderator:
Edmundo Werna – Head of Unit, Sectoral Policies Department, ILO, Geneva

Discussion structure:
The online discussion was moderated by one expert (Moderator) from Sectoral Policies Department, ILO, Geneva. Moderator requested participants to share their ideas, and responded to comments, recommendations on Draft New Urban Agenda.

Main Participents:
Patrica O'Donnel – Urban Design/Landscape Architect, Heritage Preservation, US
Benjamin - Architect/Urban Planner & PhD Student at Institute of Geography, University of Cologne, Germany
Habitat International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network
Augusto Carvalho - Civil Engineer, Brazil
Diego Maciel Blum da Silva - Community Engagement from Brazil
Arjan Wardekker - Sr. Researcher Urban Resilience & Climate Adaptation (Utrecht University & Earth System Governance Project), Netherlands
CISDP-UCLG from
Filippo Boselli - Policy Officer
JP Amaral - Co-founder of Bike Anjo, Brazil

Issa Samandar - Director from Palestine (State of Vera Architect and Urban Planner), Brazil

Key Recommendations from the Discussion:
- Rehabilitation and resilience of the existing built environment (as opposed to (mainly) new products)
- Competitive cities, on the one side, and solidarity on the other.
- A focus on the Transformative Commitments - what is transformative.
- What has been - or should be - the progress from Habitat II to Habitat III

This leads to the question about how such topics could be specifically inserted in the Agenda. A challenge for the Agenda is how to integrate all the specific issues in a comprehensive and coherent way. Several points made by participants build upon other points. Other times, points reveal different perspectives. One interesting recurring point is the reference to a broader 'Habitat Agenda' as opposed to a narrower 'Urban Agenda'. This was mentioned in previous interventions, reiterated now by HIC, and Benjamin seems to go in the same direction by bringing on water planning. HIC also makes a critical historical reference, by comparing Habitat III to Habitat II. At some point, it will be very important to have an in-depth and clear comparison. Arjan makes an interesting connection between transformative commitments and transformative resilience. If the Agenda is about transformative commitments then the resilience (widely mentioned) should also be transformative. Good point, and in principle also applicable to other parts of the text. Along related lines, Patricia suggests that the three transformative commitments be reconsidered with cultural assets and inherited common wealth in mind. Benjamin highlights the creative economy, and it would be interesting if he elaborates on what he means by this (and in the context of the Agenda). HIC also mentions human rights, which is understandable, at the same time the Agenda seems to be already well embedded in such rights, extending the idea of the right to housing to a broader right to the city. IHC, in turn, made many of points, which important as they are, seem to reiterate issues already included in the Agenda. It would be interesting if IHC could elaborate.
borate on their points vis-a-vis what other participants wrote. Therefore, I suggest more debate in the next round.

General analysis of cycling in the New Urban Agenda:
- Cycling is present and there is no turning back. The work done by many organizations around the globe on cycling promotion is reflected on the Zero Draft.
- Cycling is so much more than transport and this should be translated into the New Urban Agenda, linking to basic rights to the city, local economy, health, environment, social inclusion, among other benefits of cycling.
- People-oriented cities is key in the New Urban Agenda.
- "Sustainable transport" should always be emphasized instead of just "transport".
- A New Urban Agenda must enhance the reduction of car usage and establishing the necessary tools for that, such as reducing parking space, congestion charge schemes, pedestrian streets, among others.
- Road and public space safety needs to be more present if we want to guarantee quality of life for people and a healthy environment in cities.

Filippo Boselli indicated that more emphasis should be placed on the need to move towards a regenerative type of urban development, whose focus shifts from simply minimizing the impact of urban development onto the environment to an understand cities and urban settlements as much more integrated systems that can prosper symbiotically with their surrounding natural environment. Instead of being parasitic, consuming and polluting entities cities can and should actively contribute to the regeneration of the ecosystem services from which they depend.

Knut Unger, Joseph Schedule, and Cesara Ottoline defined that they do not find any reference to the needed and possible instruments for social regulation of the private real estate, mortgage and land markets. They expect that The New Habitat Agenda (not "Urban Agenda") must propose a commitment of the world

community to the idea of a global development that does not put profit over people, but builds social rules for governments, property and financial markets that guarantee the human right to adequate housing and to all other services and infrastructures necessary for an adequate standard of living and well-being.

The three transformative principles should be specified as:

(a) Social human rights as the driver of change toward cities for all, which must stop exclusion and guarantee equal access to resources; (b) Well-being, human rights and an adequate standard of living for all as international aims that result in state obligations toward social regulation of markets and the provision of needed services and infrastructures the markets do not provide; (c) Sustainable, resilient and social human settlements as a binding commitment for integrated policies at all levels.

Rent control must be implemented for all tenants, for new rental agreements, as well as for sitting tenants. Enforceable rights to adequate housing must be guaranteed by public institutions at different levels, which implies concrete policies to empower public institutions to uphold this human right in their relations to real estate and financial markets.

CISDP-UCLG highlighted the New Urban Agenda (NUA) zero draft's main strengths:

1. Reference (although relativized) to the Right to the City at the beginning of the Declaration, and inclusion of its core principals in the Agenda's draft: right to housing, to water, polycentric and inclusive cities, etc.

2. Acknowledgment of Human Rights in the city, and NUA framework within the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

3. The issue of the right to housing is especially present in the draft:

- Commitment to implement sound public policies, articulated among national and local governments, to guarantee the right to adequate housing (including access to basic services and infrastructures) and to prevent evictions and to guarantee the security of tenure.
- Acknowledgement of the social function of land, of tenure forms other than ownership, and of community-based solutions.

4. Acknowledgement of local governments' role in guaranteeing inhabitants' rights, and of the need for a real and effective decentralization.

- This need is especially emphasized regarding the issue of local finances: the draft calls for the decentralization to local governments of the 20% of national resources, and for the development of fair and equitable fiscal systems.

5. Strong and transversal gender approach –especially on the field of access to services, right to housing, fighting against gender-based violence, urban planning and labor equality.

6. Call to strengthen metropolitan governance and to deeply democratize it.

7. Acknowledgement of the existence of urban social segregation and of the need to work for polycentric and inclusive cities. Commitment to fight against such segregation and against urban gentrification processes.

- Commitment to guarantee free access to public spaces, without any physical, legal, economic or architectural barrier that may prevent citizens (especially most vulnerable collectives, like homeless people) from accessing to it.

8. Commitment to acknowledge and to support informal sector –both at the employment and habitat levels.

9. Commitment to guarantee access to water, energy, food security, health, air quality and live able and attractive urban landscapes.

On the other side, the main weaknesses of the draft are:

1. No reference to democracy as essential political system –neither to local democracy.

- Civil society and citizens' role is limited to the monitoring and the evaluation of public policy and to urban planning. No mention to their participation to the real decision-making and to the co-production of public policies.
- Few mentions to citizen empowerment and the need for supporting it.

2. Call to keep building competitive cities, oriented to financial investments and aiming at the economic growth –although it is called "inclusive and sustainable economic growth".

- The draft includes precise policies and actions to create business-friendly cities, but it is far less concrete regarding policies to ensure the inclusiveness of economic growth.
- No reference to social and solidary economy –which also enters in contradiction with calling for an inclusive economy.
- No reference to the need for framing public-private partnerships as part of a system to guarantee human rights and the general interest.
  3. No acknowledgement of urban common goods as such, either of their democratic governance.
  4. No recognition of some discriminated collectives –especially LGBTI and racialized people.
  5. No mention to the growth of racism –especially from institutions, in the form urban and police violence, either to the stigmatization of neighborhoods with a high concentration of minorities.
  6. No reference to the fight against corruption and tax evasion –which diminishes the amount of available resources to set up public policies.
  7. Regarding the gender mainstreaming, it is focused on a legal and normative approach, rather than effective public policies –especially on the issue of employment, in which it is needed support for women that take care of their children and this prevents them to access to labour market.
  8. Absence of recognition of citizens and collectives' cultural rights in the city.

Arjan Wardekker Sr. specified that Habitat III is examining "Transformative Commitments", (b) the dynamic, long-term perspective is sometimes neglected in urban adaptation practice (e.g., it is more difficult to 'engineer' and it challenges the status-quo), and (c) cities face multiple problematic trends that are highly uncertain, complex, and interacting with the other trends (environmental, but also economic, demographic, technological, political, social, etc.). He suggested placing more emphasis on the need to build 'dynamic and transformative' resilience.

Fencas Real Estate Development Company's commented with regards to the atmosphere understanding marked in Paris in 2015, and bringing down our carbon footprint, there must be an expansion in the utilization of natural evaluation strategy, for example, BREEAM and LEED in the arranging and advancement of new human settlement.

Main Topic B:
Effective Implementation

- Sub-Topic 1. Building Tthe Urban Structure: Establishing A Supportive, Sub-National & Local Framework
- Sub-Topic 2. Planning & Managing The Urban Spatial Development
- Sub-Topic 3 - "Enhancing Means of Implementation Of The New Urban Agenda: Financing And Other Tools Of Implementation":

Moderator:
Vincy Abraham - Regional Focal Point, India

Dialogue structure:
The discussion was administered by one expert ("moderator") from the Regional Focal Point, India. The moderator responded to participant's comment, connecting with them through an online discussion around the proposed topics for sustainable urban agenda. Additionally, get to the heart of pragmatic troubles and difficulties confronted by urban areas in giving haven, work and urban administrations and guaranteeing that nobody is "left behind," while securing the earth and adjusting urban communities to be strong to the effect of current and future difficulties throughout the following two decades, including environmental change and expanding urbanization. The moderator, Vincy Abraham, called for participants to focus on

Effective Implementation" aspect, asked participants to share best practices, strategies and policies that they are aware of that could strengthen the implementation of this document.

Participation:
During this discussion period people from different countries said their opinion, ideas, and recommendations. The majority contribution was received by the following groups and individuals:
Climate Change Centre Reading
Benjamin Architect - Urban Planner & PhD Student, Institute of Geography, University of Cologne, Germany
Usha Nair Co- Focal Point (Women and Gender Constituency (UNFCCC), India
YOURS - Youth for Road Safety
Natalie Draisin - Road safety and Sustainable Transport
Filippo Boselli - Policy OfficerS
JP Amaral - Co-founder of Bike Anjo, Brazil
Susan Roylance - International Policy and Social Development Coordinator, United States

Key Recommendations from the Discussion:
The Urban Design Competition #URBANCRATZER was introduced first time by the HabitatCO2lutions.org. This competition was important because If steps are taken to recognize preparations for evacuation areas and urban craters in dense city areas this can be a just and fair transformative transmission, perhaps then cities can be lucky with a disaster response plan/program due to coming climate change impacts.

For more information on the project please visit - http://www.habitatCO2lution.org
Filippo Boselli,Policy Officer recommended that greater emphasis should be given to the need to create a specific commission or institution to coordinate the design and implementation of these National Urban Policies as well as in charge of monitoring and implementing the New Urban Agenda at the national level.

Natalie Draisin proposed that they will support cities in adopting policies following the "Safe System" approach, including speed management and investments in safe walking and cycling infrastructure. "Safe and accessible mobility, and the provision of a safe route to school for all children, is at the heart of the new urban future. It is imperative that we include our proposed language, to ensure that we protect all vulnerable populations."

Youth for Road Safety also agreed with Natalie about the "Safe System approach" in the text, and JP Amaral to use the term "sustainable transport". They added a few new comments as well as. Based on their comments a half of the world's population is younger than 25 years. Hence, they will encourage for meaningful youth participation throughout the entire process of decision-making.
Usha Nair highlighted that women are the main consumers and managers of such resources in the domestic sector.

JP Amaral, Co-founder of Bike Anjo from Brazil, defined their analyze on the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and gathered where and how cycling is referred to, and what is still lacking in the vision of how cycling can contribute to sustainable urban development.
General analysis of cycling in the New Urban Agenda:
• Cycling is present and there is no turning back.
• Cycling is so much more than transport and this should be translated into the New Urban Agenda
• People-oriented cities is key in the New Urban Agenda.
• "Sustainable transport" should always be emphasized instead of just "transport.

- Whenever the means of transport are listed, they should be mentioned in the following order: "walking, cycling and public transport" as to put the more fragile first and to set the necessary order of priority when dealing with accessibility.
- A New Urban Agenda must enhance the reduction of car usage and establishing the necessary tools for that, such as reducing parking space, congestion charge schemes, pedestrian streets, among others.
- Road and public space safety needs to be more present if we want to guarantee quality of life for people and a healthy environment in cities.

Susan Roylance, International Policy and Social Development Coordinator from United States, emphasized that as the basic unit of society, the family is key to the implementation of both the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. According to her four paragraphs in the Zero Draft referenced "children and youth," but did not mention the family. She recommended It would be appropriate to add, "and their family" in each paragraph. She suggested to include in the list of the following groups in paragraph 12: "Particular attention should also be paid to addressing the specific challenges facing children, youth, [families,] persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, women, grassroots organizations, informal inhabitants and workers, farmers, refugees, returnees, and internally displaced persons, and migrants in the implementations of the New Urban Agenda."

PART 3: URBAN DIALOGUE ON THE ZERO DRAFT
OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Main topic A:

The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development

- Sub-topic 1. Sustainable & Inclusive Urban Prosperity & Opportunities for All

- Sub-topic 2. Sustainable urban development for social inclusion & poverty eradication

- Sub-topic 3. Environmentally sound & resilient urban development

Moderators:

      i.   Joseph D'Cruz – UNDP, Thailand

     ii.   Edmundo Werna - Head of Unit, Sectoral Policies Department, ILO, Geneva

Discussion structure:

The discussion was moderated by two experts who requested and responded to comments and recommendations on the Draft New Urban. Moderator called participants to comment, contribute, and share with on the Zero Draft Urban Agenda. Edmundo Werna started the discussion on the theme of livelihoods is a fundamental part of of the Summit. She indicated that Habitat III emphasizes the need for sustainability. Joseph D'CRUZ added his thoughts particularly on the aspect of poverty eradication.

The many comments and entries in this talk have proposed a scope of thoughts and recommendations for how to make urban improvement more reasonable and comprehensive. Adjusting these different alternatives and methodologies requires that we recognize the many exchange offs that advancement brings. As city pioneers, inhabitants and business people battle to react to the dynamic development of urban areas, it is anything but difficult to fall into the trap of addressing the requirements of the present at the cost without bounds (e.g. by settling on here and now decisions in framework improvement) or by disregarding the necessities of poor people and minimized while attempting to meet the requests of those with more grounded voices (particularly elites). Maintainable and comprehensive improvement implies that we ought to oppose these weights however much as could be expected and take a more comprehensive, longer-term perspective of urban advancement. This is the test that the New Urban Agenda should meet.

Main Participants:

MIRA

David Hopman - Professor of Landscape Architecture, United States

RB Singh – Professor, India

Gladys Huchu - Consultant, Water and Sanitation Projects Management, Kenya

Diana Muñoz - Architect & Urban Planner, Colombia

Climate Change Centre Reading

Asociación de Fundaciones Empresariales AFE

Hooshmand Alizadeh - Associate Professor of Urban design, University of Kurdistan,

Patricia M. O'Donnell - Landscape Architect, Urban Planner, United States

Scott Edmondson - Strategic Urban Sustainability Planning, United States

Key Recommendations from the Discussion:

The discussion started on a slow pace but picked up speed and concluded with a wide range of contributions, from very specific suggestions of language for given paragraphs, to highlights of topics that should still be brought on board, to a critique of substantive points of the Agenda. Themes highlighted during the debate encompassed, inter alia, the urban environment including more focus on nature and on land; cultural heritage, informal work, public spaces and safety, homelessness, minorities. There was more emphasis on the environmental aspects of the transformative commitments, although the other aspects were also noted, including HIC's advocacy for an overall social and human rights based approach.

- Developing Concept of Urban Support Land under perspective plan to mitigate problems created by land hungry people towards land speculation.
- Curriculum initiatives on Sustainable Cities particularly focusing on air pollution based Health modeling; Urban industrial impact on food safety particularly vegetable and fruit cultivation in peri-urban zone; Ecological footprint mapping of emerging cities and their neighborhoods
- Gender Equality, Safety & Peaceful Urban Environment: Government and communities should work together for prevention of all forms of violence against women, children including sexual harassment in public places.
- Smartness Promotes City Resilience: Vulnerability Assessment of critical infrastructures (power supply, communication, water supply, transport, etc.) to disaster events

   A new urban agenda prompts a rethinking of the notion of Habitat, one that is inclusive and accessible, linked to housing, social infrastructure and strengthening the community as part of a group of issues that need to be addressed in an integral way. Land must be used as a driver of development for environmental, social and economic purposes, and as an instrument to achieve sustainable development in a community. A collective commitment between the public sector – at the national and regional level – private and civil society sectors and effective joint coordination through the structuring and implementation of mechanisms towards collective impact are all critical to providing social services, and as such to achieve more inclusive and equal communities. Habitat initiatives should be developed in conjunction with specific areas of land and their communities, according to their realities and an understanding of their unique needs and interests. Communities and individuals should be at the center of discussions, decisions and actions. Local governments need to work in a coordinated way with national governments to guarantee the transformation of inclusive areas, incorporating social, economic and environmental aspects. Foundations have experience, are independent, have a long-term vision, flexibility and they work with different actors, which makes them excellent partners with which to achieve the New Urban Agenda objectives. Foundations can innovate, take risks and pilot their models to respond directly to problems and they can share with third parties, with governments, to build and improve public policy on habitat. As well as incorporating the SDGs into their work, Foundations share the vision of building a better future to guarantee that no one is left behind and that development can create benefits for all Colombians. The relative value of land, in addition to other parts, must be for and by communities, and the value of land needs to be above speculation market prices.

Main topic B:

Effective Implementation

- Sub-topic 1. Building the urban governance structure: Establishing a supportive framework
- Sub-topic 2. Planning & managing urban spatial development
- Sub-topic 3. Means of implementation

Moderators:

UN- Habitat

Discussion structure:

The discussion was moderated by the UN Habitat that requested and responded to comments and recommendations on the Draft New Urban. In interested in sub topic 1: Building the urban governance structure: establishing a supportive framework, and sub topic 2: planning and managing urban spatial development; please share your ideas, examples and suggestions of good practices and policies around theset two topics.

Main Participants:

Ekoparken Association

Richard Murray

Chair Large Urban Parks

World Urban Parks

Natalie Draisin - Road Safety and Sustainable Transport, United States

Saripalli Suryanarayan - Engineer,Writer Of Two Novel Based On Development, Public Heath, Infrastructuture""ST And Innovation For Future Discussion", India

Lucy Stevens - Senior Policy Adviser, Practical Action (NGO), United Kingdom

Mohammed Ahmed - On My Own., Nigeria

Grethel Castellanos - Arquitecta Planificadora Territorial, Dominican Republic

Wouter Thiebou UNV - Volunteering and Citizen Security Specialist, Kenya

Kees (Cornelis Johannes) Van Leeuwen - Principal Scientist and Professor in Water Management And Urban Development, Netherlands

The International Union for Land Value Taxation

Susan Roylance - International Policy and Social Development Coordinator, United States

Key Recommendations from the Discussion:

Richard Murray indicated the World Urban Parks planning must be directed at preserving or creating green structures on par with planning for buildings, residents, offices and factories. He also mentioned a spontaneous, profit based development will set aside far too little greenery, and only by vigorous town planning is it possible to have a chance to achieve this.

Mohammed Ahmed highlighted there is a consensus among professional elite in govt. and business in Africa, that what is required to confront the malaise of squalid housing, is "Affordable Housing". Based his

emphases with bourgeoning populations, the housing situation is only worsening for the vulnerable. The property market is the real winner, even in the much-touted PPP concoctions around the continent. In his point of view, what needs to be done is to adopt "Social Housing", in which margin of profit is not the driver to the Initiative. Additionally, he mentioned housing provision for the majority population which includes the vulnerable, should be the driver of this template. Furthermore, even among those who have the requisite income to sign mortgage facilities, not all may be interested in paying for a house to live in, at certain stages in their life. H recommended the Governments at all levels in Africa, should ignore Breton Wood's Institutions prognosis of no- government participation in housing provision.

Kees (Cornelis Johannes) van Leeuwen, Principal scientist and Professor in Water Management and Urban Development from Netherlands, defined their publication in Environment, Development and Sustainability (DOI 10.1007/s10668-016-9760-4) written together with his colleague Stef Koop is an introduction for politicians, mayors, companies, citizens, NGOs and all other persons interested in the challenges of water in the next decades. The paper can also be used as background for the upcoming HABITAT-III meeting. The paper can be summarized in 10 bullet points:

1. Relevance.

2. Challenges in cities.

3. Transitioning and developing countries.

4. Cities and Citizens

5. Water Governance.

6. City- to-city learning.

7. Smarter Cities.

- Smarter cities are cities with a coherent long-term social, economic and ecological agenda.

- Smarter cities are water-wise cities that integrate their sectorial agendas on water, wastewater, energy, solid waste, transport, ICT, climate adaptation and nature into a forward-looking, coherent Urban Agenda to maximize co-benefits and to minimize the cost.

- Smarter cities implement a circular economy, focus on social innovation and, finally, greatly improve on governance.

8. SMART goals.

- Specific (target a specific area for improvement),

- Measurable (quantify or at least suggest an indicator of progress),

- Assignable (specify who will do it),

- Realistic (state what results can realistically be achieved, given available resources),

- Time-related (specify when the result(s) can be achieved).(NB. SMART goals will be included in the Leeuwarden Declaration; see also my previous post).

9. Implementation matters.

10. Sense of Urgency.

David Harold Chester proposed for the implementation of these worthy ideals have failed to recognize the

significance of land ownership and its three ill effects on the community and national economy. These are namely:

a) ability to withhold the opportunities for performing useful work and the provision of suitable family accommodation that the land provides,

b) the speculation in the growing value of land in a developing urban community, which rightly should belong to that community and

c) the income in the form of ground rent, which such an owner enjoys and which by moral right of land being a gift of nature (if not of God), should be justly shared.