



United Nations

HABITAT III
ASSEMBLY REPORT

Title of the Assembly:	Children and Youth Assembly
Session:	Interstakeholder Plenary
Date:	15 October 2016
Time:	10:00 – 11:00
Venue:	Teatro Nacional
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)

1. Summary of the Assembly reflecting the structure and format

This Inter-stakeholder Plenary consisted of a panel with the moderator and four speakers, including one youth speaker. It was held to set the scene for the C&Y Assembly, and to provide an in-depth discussion regarding the roles of different stakeholders in building intergenerational partnerships to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

2. Key messages from the discussions

There are about 1.8 billion youth and the urbanisation of youth is a present phenomenon. We do not like to think of youth as a target, on the contrary, we like to see how they themselves can help.

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

- Youth represent 60 percent or more of the populations around the world. It is important for each group to define what their challenges are. In order to address an issue you need to look at it from different perspectives. One way to mainstream youth is that when programmes are developed youth need to be part of the design process. They need to engage and give their perspectives, therefore Intergenerational help is crucial.
- International politics cannot work if it does not include and integrate the work of young people and professionals. This is why the initiatives such as the 2030 Cities Young Professionals Programme will help integrate in the new urban agenda. The monitoring mechanism will appear and monitor the new urban agenda and will be present in three levels of world political forum and the UN council for local authorities.



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

- Indeed it is important that youth reflect on what exactly they would like to have as an enabling environment. Youth led initiatives should be promoted.
- Diversity is good but it is also how to use it for the benefit and the advantage. The new urban agenda gives the youth and the children the basics and commitments to the youth. It is indeed owned by member states but at the same time yourself. We all have a role to play which gives us a basis to work in partnerships.
- A speaker stated that over the past two years we have been restructuring ourselves into seven areas, this speaks to the realisation on our part; how important we see youth in social justice and the world.
- Examples of how youth are helping are through youth-led movements. For example there are youth communities on the coast of Peru who integrate surfing as something fun to reduce pollution and clean up the ocean.

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

- The meaningful engagement, institutionalisation and participation of young people in supporting the monitoring and FuR processes of the NUA.
- We see the strength youth has, the capacity to change more than anybody else. Young people understand the fast changes, youth gets the clue on how things work as they are changing. The value of the youth, the imagination that the youth has, brings the capacity of thinking outside the box.
- By creating sustainable patterns, youth can lead changes in lifestyles, green spaces and negotiating spaces.

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

- This all can and has to be done through partnerships; therefore connecting is imperative. We have to try and link youth organisations with what is happening at national and governmental levels.
- It is indeed important to engage youth with other groups, it is also really about partnerships and joining with those who are making the decisions, issue based collation.

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

- There is a need to cross-pollinate with youth but we need to recognise that when organisations need additional support we certainly need to make side space for them.



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- Youth are asking questions but maybe not to us. Online forums show youth curiosity. We undervalue the experience volunteering can bring to youth. Volunteering can be seen as a key action youth can take to find the cause they can advocate for.
- They know what needs to be done and what needs to be asked. Older generations need to be less condescending of our youth.