



United Nations

— HABITAT III —
ASSEMBLY REPORT

Title of the Assembly:	Children and Youth Assembly
Session:	Movement of People: Within and Between Countries
Date:	15 October 2016
Time:	11:30 – 13:00
Venue:	Room 10, 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	Lo, Sharon, Regional Focal Point (North and Southeast Asia)\
Approximate number of participants:	13
Number of female participants:	6
Number of male participants:	7

1. Summary of the Assembly reflecting the structure and format

We engaged participants in interactive sessions, focusing on the two following topics:

Movement Between Countries - at the cross-roads of urbanization, displacement of migrants/refugees has grown at an unprecedented rate. Calling into question traditional ways humanitarian response to crises, this session explored the importance of appropriate humanitarian action in urban contexts, as well as avenues for integration of migrants/refugees through entrepreneurship, innovation, education, employment, inclusive infrastructure, and other means.

Movement Within Countries - explore an equally important and urgent need to address movement of people towards urban centers - this entails better understanding of IDPs, effect on indigenous populations, and impact on urban ecosystems. Furthermore, the need for enhanced integrated territorial development, bridging the urban-rural divide, will be highlighted. Addressing the themes of sustainable cities and rural development in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner will be essential, given the urban-peri urban-rural continuum and increasing flows and investments in cities.

We sat on a circle where the moderator, Aashish Khullar (Organizing Partner, UN MGCY), handed the microphone to the participants that wanted to introduce themselves and begin the discussion. The session started with one of the participants speaking about refugees, with particular emphasis on children. He gave the example of a child in Syria sitting in a chair covered in blood and dust. He concluded that today one of the biggest issue for people wanting to leave their cities is because we have armed conflicts inside urban areas. The lack of security is one of the main reasons there exists a “movement of people.”



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Another participant, Silvia Nova, spoke about the issues why people immigrate in Mexico. She said that Mexico has 2 of the most dangerous cities of the world. Young people from rural areas are in very dangerous positions and experiencing things that no kid should experience. Drug trafficking, human trafficking, violence, organized crime and much more.

Another participant, Jorge Galeano, added that we need to see how resilient we can be. We are in a time where violence is putting our human capacity to test. Facing and finding a solution for violence is the proof of how resilient we are and could be.

Another participant, a US citizen, Ellen, added that there must be solutions to keep track of refugees. For her listening to the number of kids missing in Syria is shocking, she emphasises: “10 thousand kids that governments have lost track of!” She explained herself and added that it’s impossible that in the 21st century there aren’t effective methods to keep track of the whereabouts of a person.

As the discussion advanced the participants started looking and sharing different types of solutions or possible solutions. One of the participants, Zoe talked about the utility of the internet. Her association created a tool to survey young people on current issues in their cities. She highlighted that today we need to start using the tools we have and adapt to them. Silvia added that there is a university in Mexico that give scholarships to refugees. She said that the important thing is not only to remove them from the dangerous zones, but once they are out, it is important to have a space for them to create a life. The program of scholarships offers that opportunity and it’s for anyone willing to do something with the possibilities they have.

Other participant, Pete, added that we cannot forget that the movement of people isn’t only people going from their countries involuntarily because of dangerous situations. There is also the movement of people who chose to leave looking for more opportunities, growth and even just the experience of leaving their countries.

Silvia added that it is very important for the young community to involve themselves in organizations that work on this kinds of issues. S Girl Guide delegate added that it is important to reach out for the youth because we can’t wait for young people to come knocking to our doors. As done in Ecuador by Girl Guides, they travelled to the zone where the earthquake hit and looked for a vulnerable population that could use the help. The solution would be to look for kids in risk and give them an opportunity.

Finally another participant added that we also need to start innovating the way we look for solutions. If we keep using traditional ways to create awareness and solutions then there will be no results. It is important to adapt to every change in society.



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2. Key messages from the discussions

- Find new ways to not lose track of people.
- Work in our resilience
- Empower youth and bring them on board - not just during the response phase, but also during the design and planning steps.
- Start with affordable actions to set the pace for a solution
- Approach and serve the needs of vulnerable populations
- Find local projects and join
- Identify best ways to build urban-rural linkages to “leave no one behind”

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

- Develop an understanding for the rapid movement of people between and within countries, towards urban centers. Identify the appropriate role of science, technology, and education in achieving that.
- Build capacity among young practitioners and experts through knowledge exchange of key concepts around urban-humanitarian and urban-rural linkages.
- Document ideas for innovation, entrepreneurship, research and best practices being developed by youth for effective, secure, and appropriate strategies to close the urban-humanitarian and urban-rural divides.

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

The main commitment of the group was to continue working on creating impact and reducing the vulnerable state of children and young people in their own countries, as well as working towards addressing urban-humanitarian and urban-rural divides.

As part of the UN MGCY's engagement in various processes, including the Sendai Framework for DRR and follow-up on the World Humanitarian Summit, linkages will be drawn to enhance efforts surrounding urban-humanitarian challenges.

As part of the Alliance on Urban Crises, launched in Istanbul at the World Humanitarian Summit, UN MGCY will contribute to the work and efforts by proposing solutions and policies to effectively accommodate trends towards rapid mobilization of people to ensure inclusivity, integration in cities, equal opportunity, and resilient systems.



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

Use the open, inclusive platform provided by the UN MGCY Habitat III WG to gauge interest, collect ideas, and share opportunities.

Specific follow-up will be done as part of the Alliance for Urban Crisis.

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

Potential synergies with groups like the red cross and IFRC, who are particularly interested in working with youth within the urban-humanitarian landscape.

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

Use the open, inclusive platform provided by the UN MGCY Habitat III WG to gauge interest, collect ideas, and share opportunities.