



## HABITAT III CONFERENCE REPORTING FOR ASSEMBLIES Coordinators

***Deadline: 2 weeks after the Assembly***

Please send via e-mail: [habitat3secretariat@un.org](mailto:habitat3secretariat@un.org); [habitat3Stakeholders@un.org](mailto:habitat3Stakeholders@un.org)

<b>Title of the Assembly:</b>	Children and Youth Assembly
<b>Session:</b>	Right to the City
<b>Date:</b>	15 October 2016
<b>Time:</b>	11:00 – 11:45
<b>Venue:</b>	Room 11, Casa de la Cultura
<b>Name of leading organizing Institution(s):</b>	UN Major Group for Children and Youth
<b>Country/City where leading organizing Institution(s) is/are based:</b>	United Kingdom
<b>Contact Person</b> ( <i>Last Name, Name, Function, E-mail, Telephone Number</i> )	Lo, Sharon, Regional Focal Point (North and Southeast Asia), <a href="mailto:sharon.lo@childrenyouth.org">sharon.lo@childrenyouth.org</a> , +852 91575743
<b>Name of organizing partnering Institution(s) with their respective base</b> ( <i>City, Country</i> )	Youth for Unity Voluntary Action (YUVA), India
<b>Contact Person from partnering Institution(s)</b> ( <i>Last Name, Name, Function, E-mail, Telephone Number</i> )	Marina Joseph, Programme Coordinator, <a href="mailto:marina.j@yuvaindia.org">marina.j@yuvaindia.org</a>
<b>Approximate number of participants:</b>	38
<b>Number of female participants:</b>	15
<b>Number of male participants:</b>	23

### 1. Summary of the Assembly reflecting the structure and format (max: 800 words)

#### **Background:**

'R2C' has been the most contested and widely debated text in the New Urban Agenda. This in spite of the fact that Components of R2C are part of the Constitution of many countries. As a concept it has been academically discussed since the 1960s and used as a practice method by various people's movements for justice in cities across the world. Though watered down, the final inclusion of the R2C in the New Urban Agenda was significant. It accepted a fundamental demand of people's movements staking a claim in cities.

#### **Definition and Meaning of R2C**





- The R2C is based on the idea of equitable use of cities according to the principles of sustainability, democracy, equity and social justice
- It is interdependent on all human rights that are internationally recognized
- It includes the right to development, participation, inclusion and right to imagine and create a city
- Why R2C is important to children and youth in the NUA?
- Lives of children and youth cannot be divorced from the larger ecosystems in which they live
- Children and youth form a significant percentage of the urbanizing world - ensuring their right to participate in city imagining and enabling their right to access the benefits of development is crucial to ensuring equitable implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
- In the spirit of 'leave no one behind', the R2C aspires to address the most pressing needs of the vulnerable. Children and youth living in precarious circumstances in cities today are thus essential stakeholders in this process.

Most contested and widely debated text in the NUA in spite the fact that:

- Components of R2C are part of constitution of many countries
- As a concept it has been academically discussed since 1960

#### **Speaker 1 - Nelson Saule Jr**

- Introduction to R2C
- History of the concept R2C
- Debates and discussions on R2C during the Preparatory Committee Meetings
- Taking this forward, youth engaging with the R2C

#### **Speaker 2 - Almuth Schaubert**

Urbanization and R2C

#### **Two Megatrends:**

Century of Cities: Urban population increases from 3.5 billion to 7 billion (2050) Population is massively growing. Every third person will be born in a city

Climate Change: limit to 1.5 C, cities are the main contributor to CC.

#### **Take Informality as a Reality:**

Worldwide 30% of urban population is informal

Urban dwellers are not considered citizens, not part of their city planning when comes to resilience of cities.

30% is just an average, some cities gets up to 75% and Mumbai has 50%. Is it a question of power?

Why are cities not accepting informal settlements as part of their cities.

Legal Status of people living there affects their lives and identity.

#### **Cities as drivers of climate change and as victims of climate change**

- Cities use more than 70% of energy and emit 70% of GHG
- 80% global future energy needs is demanded by cities
- Regions which urbanize quickly hold the key of migration in their hands





- 25% of global future energy demand could be saved if cities in Asia would be developed in a sustainable climate-neutral way (path dependency)
- Cities are in the centre of efforts of migration and adaptation
- Cities can be the hope to eliminate climate change: industrial countries the urban footprint is much bigger than the rural one
- Urbanization = a chance to save the world's climate?
- Justice: Urban Poor and Climate Risks:
- Settlements are frequently built in danger zones: directly located at rivers on steep slopes at main traffic routes
- Urban poor people are particularly exposed to effects of climate change but have no entitlement to basic services

### Speaker 3 - Lakhi Das

#### A Case of a Private City

#### Introduction - Rights in a Private City

- Jamshedpur city in eastern India is owned by India's largest steel manufacturing company – Tata Steel. City planning, provision of infrastructure and land ownership is under company regulations.
- It was formed in 1908 along with the construction of the Tata steel plant. It currently has a population of more than 1.3 million.
- Within this city where land is privately owned, 'rights' that are due to people in a welfare state are not provided. All basic rights (inadvertently connected to land and infrastructure) are subsumed within company interests.
- R2C includes right to participation in governance. In Jamshedpur however,
- There are no local government elections - the company controls all work that is mandated of a local government
- There is no scope to participate in city planning or imagine the city as per people's needs
- The bundle of rights that the R2C upholds is also violated as none of the rights guaranteed in the Constitution are upheld by the company
- No Objection Certificates (NOCs) are required from the company for any sort of infrastructure development and development work. This includes digging of tube wells for water, building community halls, community toilets, schools, child care centers etc. This affects children and youth development in multiple ways

### 2. Key messages from the discussions.

- The Right to the City perspective is a critical paradigm to view the basis of the New Urban Agenda and stakeholder engagement
- Urban dwellers, particularly in informal settlements need to be a part of city planning and resilience building
- These people are particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of rapid unplanned urbanisation and onset of climate change
- The R2C and rights perspective provide valuable tools to analyse urban issues, urban





equity and sustainability in urbanization processes.

### **3. Action-oriented recommendations/ way forward in the framework of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda [key points only, including specific global, regional and local actions]**

- We should ensure that the 'R2C' in the NUA is not merely wording but is enforced to ensure that there are no forced evictions of informal settlements
- Inclusive urban planning and people centred participatory approaches to urban governance should be implemented in cities
- The social function of land and the city should be realised
- The rights of all citizens, especially the marginalized should be protected

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

In accordance with paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda, as well as paragraph 128 and 162 of the New Urban Agenda, which recognise the role of major groups and other stakeholders in implementation, follow up, and review of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the UN MGCY Habitat III Working Group is happy to announce the "Quito Youth Commitments" which guides youth constituency engagement in the implementation, follow-up, and review of the NUA.

"Quito Youth Commitments" are comprised of the following three pillars:

1. Follow-Up and Review Engagement Mechanism;
2. Cities 2030 Young Professionals Programme;
3. Science, Technology, and Innovation: Sustainable Urban Development Youth Initiative.

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

Participants and panelists were committed to taking forward processes of engaging youth in community based action to ensure implementation of SDGs and equity in the NUA

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

Partnerships with Global Platform on the R2C and Habitat International Coalition with regard to involvement of youth in taking forward the R2C

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

The Quito Youth Commitments incorporate youth engagement in taking forward urban equity which is the bedrock of the R2C.

### **8. Any other relevant comments or outcome from the session not covered above.**

A summary of this Assembly session and the role of youth in R2C was shared at the Right to the City side event organized by the Global Platform on Right to the City (held on 21 Oct 2016).





9. Detail information of speakers/presenters/moderators (add as many as applicable):

<b>Full name (Mr/Ms):</b>	Marina Joseph
<b>Nationality:</b>	Indian
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<b>Position:</b>	Programme Coordinator
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<b>Full name (Mr/Ms):</b>	Nelson Saule Jr
<b>Nationality:</b>	Brazilian
<b>Organization/Institution</b> :	Polis Institute   University Catholic of São Paulo
<b>Position:</b>	Coordinator of R2C Programme   Urban Law Professor of the Post Graduate Program in Law
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<b>Full name (Mr/Ms):</b>	Almuth Schauber
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