



United Nations

— HABITAT III —

NETWORKING EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of lead organization	Centre for Policy Research
City and country where lead organization is based	New Delhi, India
Title of the event	Think Small, Go Big
Date of Networking Event	10/17/2016
Networking Event room number	R13
Name of partner organizations with city and country where these organizations are based	UN Habitat, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Slum Dwellers International (SDI) French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), Habitat for Humanity, Southern Voice
Number of participants	100
Percentage of women participants	50%
Background information on Networking Event (themes, issues, context).	<p>Traditionally, issues of governance, planning, and funding of cities are tied to a vision of “metropolis” as a canonical urbanity. Concomitantly, large networks are understood as the default mode for infrastructure service provision. However, data from e-geopolis and associated research indicates that in many countries, such as India, the nature of urbanisation is more dispersed and in-situ. Other research, e.g., CPR’s SCI-FI project, indicates that basic urban services are often accessed through non-network arrangements. In future many, possibly a majority, of prospective urban dwellers could be in smaller settlements and accessing services via non-network models. Given this, smaller urban settlements and non-network service models need more research, media, and policy attention. This networking event attempted to bring smaller settlements to the forefront of contemporary cross-national urbanisation debates, highlighting, inter alia, alternate urban service models. This event highlighted: a) New methodologies to measure urbanisation, allowing more coherent cross-country analysis, based on the e-geopolis project, that uses satellite data to build a common global basis for settlement identification b) Role of smaller towns and informal settlements in the future of urbanisation and their characteristic challenges c) Non-network models of urban service delivery, highlighting urban sanitation, within small towns and metropolitan slums. It will explore the portability of service delivery models from one type of location to another and their ability to scale-up equitable provision in small towns and metropolitan slums To engage with the SDGs, post-Quito, a global network on small towns, new delivery models and informal settlements to create a collaborative platform to share knowledge, information, resources, and solutions, was launched at the event.</p>



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<p>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed.</p>	<p>New methodologies to measure urbanisation: Francois highlighted the importance of small towns in urbanisation systems and presented the e-geopolis database, which provides a quantification of small and mid-sized towns using localised information. The resources are public and free to use. Share of people living in small settlements is higher and growing in population Small towns and informal settlements, the a-normal of urbanisation: Valerie described the similarities of these two types in terms of built form, lack of private investment and infrastructure, the perception of inhabitants as villagers and these spaces as transitional margins of the metropolis. She pointed out that norms, policies that apply to the formal city don;t apply to small towns and informal settlements. It is important to understand these spaces to transform our ideas of the classical city. Partha pointed out that the distinction between rural and urban are unhelpful in today's context. These small towns, which are numerous, are spaces of subaltern urbanisation, created by the people and services provided by the community. They are economically and culturally vibrant spaces where people invest in their own infrastructure. The role of governance and service provision, needs to be examined. Non-network models of urban service delivery, especially urban sanitation: Shubhagato pointed out that basic service improvements will be needed in areas that are water scarce and urbanising rapidly. There is a need to go beyond publicly provided networked solutions for sanitation. Self help sanitation is not restricted to low-income communities and entrepreneurial actions and extra-government service provision of sanitation is a vibrant market in many small cities and in large cities where networks do not reach the people. Going beyond networks is important because 90% of sanitation waste is discharged untreated into the environment while State policies, governance and legislative frameworks almost exclusively focus on integrating networks. Leaving out non-networked sanitation services raises a number of questions, particularly on equity, environmental protection, public health, climate resilience, capital efficiency and the perpetuation of a bias towards large cities and networks. Roshan pointed out that increased investments by countries across the world, to the tune of 60%, has been in networked systems (80% of this). However, this investment has not translated into proportionate outcomes. This is particularly seen in slums and informal settlements where toilets are built but not adequately connected to a sewerage system or a non-networked substructure. BMGF's focus has been to fix this important market failure by re-inventing the toilet to ensure 100% pathogen removal, minimal use of water, off-the-grid of sewer networks and external energy, costing less than 5 cents per user per day, and focusing on resource recovery. Some examples include nanomembrane toilet by Cranfield University, electrochemical-based systems by the California Institute of Technology and the omni-processor that turns faecal sludge into electricity and water by Janicki. Andre commented on the need to get the basic of cities right and move away from chasing urban problems and instead have national policies that plan for urban growth. 50% of cities in Africa and Asia have not yet been built and this is our opportunity to relearn planning, get legislative frameworks in place and make cities work fiscally. For example, nexus solutions like 'renew zones' that combine energy, food, solid waste management and devats are solutions for the future. Rajan spoke about the need for a financial ecosystem around affordable housing that goes beyond traditional housing finance. He highlighted the need for a bottom up approach where demand-led planning and community participation leveraged all forms of resources. For him, the crucial question is of scale, moving from a pilot of 20,000 households to an implementable model of 100,000 households. In this, the key issues for resolution are land, community, technology and affordable finance. It is crucial to have an operational model that is a business model to take care of scale, sustainability and impact. It also should package products and services such as livelihood, education and most importantly, the local economy. In his experience, community is willing to pay for services as long as financial models are sensitive about social impact. As an example, he described the Smart Habitat Suvidha Card of the 'Sensitize to Sanitize Campaign' that enabled slumdwellers in Thane, Maharashtra community members to earn credits while using public toilet facilities that they pay for through the card; these credits can then be leveraged for integrated service delivery. Joyce stressed on the power of self-organised communities that can use group savings to improve community infrastructure. Drawing from her experiences in Zambia, she felt that the appropriate starting points were community profiles and enumeration of the basic services needs of the community especially sanitation. "We are tired of homelessness and poverty; we can't wait for the government any more," she said, adding that communities can self-finance and collectively leverage the government to improve their situations. "No society has pulled itself out of poverty without addressing sanitation," declared Brian Arbogast, going on to underline the transformative power of technology that does not require expensive centralized equipment not just for developing nations but globally. There is an opportunity to create technology that is much cheaper over time per household. This discussion was moderated by Mukta Naik and Kimberly Noronha. A Summary of the discussion was presented and the network launched before fielding questions and comments to the panel.</p>
<p>Recommendations emerged from discussions at the Networking Event .</p>	<p>Speakers and delegates agreed that there is a need for a platform to share experiences across countries on finding solutions for basic services delivery in small towns and informal settlements particularly.</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 1st speaker</p>	<p>Francois Moriconi-Ebrard, Director of Research at CNRS and Chairman of i-Geopolis international project</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 2nd speaker</p>	<p>Valerie Clerc, Researcher, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 3rd speaker</p>	<p>Partha Mukhopadhyay & Shubhagato Dasgupta, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research</p>
<p>Full name, title, and organization of the 4th speaker</p>	<p>Brian Arbogast, Director Global Development and Water Sanitation & Hygiene AND Roshan Raj Shreshta, Senior Program Officer-Global Development and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene</p>



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Full name, title, and organization of the 5th speaker	Andre Dzikus, Co-ordinator Urban Basic Services Branch, & Nao Takeuchi, Urban Basic Services Branch, UN Habitat
Full name, title, and organization of the 6th speaker	Joyce Lungu, Community leader, Zambia Federation of the Urban Poor & Member, Slum Dwellers International
Full name, title, and organization of the 7th speaker	Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India
Full name, title, and organization of the 7th speaker	Mukta Naik & Kimberly M Noronha, Senior Researchers, Centre for Policy Research