



## HABITAT III OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

### THEMATIC PANEL ON METROPOLITAN AREAS AND INTERMEDIATE CITIES

THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2016, CONFERENCE ROOM 3

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

#### **Presentations**

- Ms. Chantal Deschamps, Member of the Executive Committee of the Montreal Metropolitan Community
- Mr. Marcelo Cabrera, Mayor of the City of Cuenca, Ecuador

#### **Panel Discussion**

##### **Moderator**

Mr. Remy Sietchiping, Unit Leader, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN Habitat

##### **Panelists**

- Raija Hynynen, Senior Housing Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Department of the Built Environment- Finland
- Christine Felicity Platt, Honorary Vice President, Commonwealth Association of Planners, South Africa
- Quazi Baby, Executive Director and Founder, Participatory Development Action Program, Bangladesh
- Alphonse G. Kyessi, Associate Research Professor in the Institute of Human Settlements Studies at Ardhi University ,Tanzania

#### **The Montreal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas**

More than ever, the challenges facing cities around the world are extending beyond local boundaries. As more people move into the metropolitan areas surrounding central cities, local governments must innovate in democratic decision-making and supra-local governance matters and develop new interterritorial coordination strategies and mechanisms.

*Some of the transformative recommendations for metropolitan world were;*

- Promote integrated sustainable metropolitan development policies that support inclusive housing, social services, gender equality, cultural heritage and a safe and healthy living environment for all
- Recognize that compact and mixed-use cities foster sustainable urban development.
- Need of sustainable mobility, integration of natural and man-made disaster risk reduction in metropolitan planning and management, and the key role metropolitan areas play in the fight against climate change.
- Recognise the interdependence between rural and urban regions and the need to achieve a balance between both regions.
- Improving the quality of human settlements with a view to eradicating poverty.



- Recognise Urban and metropolitan planning benefits from citizen participation and the involvement of multiple stakeholders, as well as the full use of disaggregated data.
- The importance of placing the right to the city for all in the center of metropolitan policies.
- Recognize the legitimacy of municipalities and other levels of governments in setting out a coherent vision for metropolitan areas.
- Partnerships among cities, communities and national governments play an important role in promoting sustainable metropolitan development, and promoting financing suited to the challenges of metropolitan areas.

#### *Implementing metropolitan mechanisms*

- The New Urban Agenda must reiterate the importance of empowering local authorities and now take into account metropolitan areas and the mechanisms required to meet metropolitan challenges.
- Metropolitan governance requires a clear legal and institutional framework, based on principles of democracy, respect for local autonomy and subsidiarity, and metropolitan financing mechanisms must also be implemented.

#### *A new multilevel metropolitan cooperation partnership*

- Recognition of the importance of increasing the number of accountable, capable, inclusive and socially just metropolitan areas that implement policies for sustainable urban planning and development.
- To meet challenges and opportunities of global urbanization, all levels of government will have to share a common vision; requires cooperation, integration, solidarity and concerted action from all levels of government.
- Multi-level metropolitan cooperation partnerships (MMCPs) should be implemented.

*A full version of the Montreal Declaration is available at [www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/rt-meetings](http://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/rt-meetings) or on this link [here](#)*

#### **The Cuenca Declaration on Intermediate Cities; Urban Growth and Renewal**

From the declaration, some of the key recommendations towards the New Urban Agenda are;

- Provision of inclusive national urban policies and strategy frameworks as well as appropriate legal, fiscal and organizational frameworks to promote a balanced and responsive urban development.
- Strengthening the coordination between different levels of government, including the development of multi-actor partnerships and inter-municipal cooperation mechanisms,
- Promoting civil society participation; national and local governments, the private sector and the civil society to collaborate to increase economic development.
- Encourage adequate investments in small and medium urban centers
- Promote the role of small and intermediate cities in strengthening food security systems
- Strengthening resilience, developing policies and interventions to decrease the demand for private vehicles in urban centers and discourage urban sprawl.
- Development of urban regeneration, renewal and informal settlement upgrading processes based on inclusive participatory planning.



- Anticipating and addressing rapid growth in Intermediate Cities through planned cities extensions and infill and we encourage ensuring social and cultural mix as well as mix of uses.
- Adequate housing policies that meet existing urban planning strategies and regulations as a key factor for the development of Intermediate Cities.
- Effective public regulation of the land market and adequate provision of accessible, safe, inclusive and quality public spaces.
- Appropriately embracing ICTs opportunities to foster civic engagement, data collection and analysis for city planning.

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**GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR  
THEMATIC PANEL ON METROPOLITAN AREAS AND INTERMEDIATE CITIES**

1. Based on your experience, outline 2-3 ways in which metropolitan areas to improve metropolitan cooperation, financing and planning.
2. Highlight 2-3 examples of policy interventions that had helped metropolitan areas perform efficiently.
3. Discuss 2-3 performance metrics (or indicators) which can be used to measure the performance of intermediate cities. How can these indicators be used to determine the national and regional policies promoting the intermediate cities?