



United Nations

HABITAT III
SIDE EVENT REPORT

| Submitted by Lead Organization | |
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| Name of the lead organization | RuedaLab |
| City and country where the lead organization is based | Bogotá, Colombia |
| Title of the event | Active transport in the new urban agenda: Research, city examples and opportunities for cooperation |
| Date | 10/17/2016 |
| Room number | 20 |
| List of partner organizations | University of Cape Town. Cape Town, South Africa/ Fundación Ciudad Humana. Bogotá, Colombia. |
| Number of attendees | 61-80 |
| Percentage of women participating | 41-50% |
| Background information on the event (themes, issues, context). | <p>This event explored the current state of research on active transport (cycling and walking) in developing countries. In the event, the Global Report & Index on Non Motorized Transport developed by the UNEP and the University of Cape Town was launched, presenting key results from the assessment of different NMT policies. Similarly, RuedaLAB described their initiative with exchange of knowledge, tools and support between researchers focused on NMT, in order to encourage better practices among developing countries as well as promoting the development of a permanent platform focused on this exchange. Finally, Ciudad Humana presented the results of a study conducted on five cities in Latin America, which evaluates the state of cycling in each of them and illustrates the reasons for cycling, characterizes the population who cycle and evaluates the problems faced by cyclists in Latin America.</p> |



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Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed

The University of Cape Town presented the research on the Global Report & Index on Non-Motorized Transport, developed by the UNEP and the university. The research included a literature review on non motorized transport policies, data evaluation and analysis of the countries performance on the implementation of these policies. The team found that in general there is a lack of evaluation processes, which results in poor performance when implementing NMT policies. Another conclusion was that good policies and commitments do not necessarily translate into good performance. Finally there seems to be a relation between investment on public transport and investment on NMT. Pedro Bravo spoke about policies for cars and non motorized transport and how to make the city we deserve. He showed several examples of how city space is given to cars and not people, as well as other situations in which car drivers are prioritized over pedestrians, such as the programming in some self-driving cars which announced that will be programmed to sacrifice the pedestrians and safe the driver. He also showed several examples of cities from Spain, which are implementing new policies that give priority to vulnerable road users. He mentioned that Barcelona is banning cars from new superblocks which will be only for residents, cyclists and pedestrians. Daniel Páez presented the RuedaLab initiative, which is a project developed by the Universidad de los Andes with support from the Inter-American Development Bank. The Universidad de los Andes evaluated several cities in Latin America, among which were Rosario, Rio de Janeiro, Bogotá and Mexico City. They found that in general Latin America has low percentages of modal share for bicycles, below 5% of all trips. The infrastructure is improving in some cities but although there are some cities with extensive networks, they might not be of good quality for users. He mentioned that in several cases infrastructure is developed where it is easy and not where it is needed. Other topic evaluated was road safety for cyclists, where they found that the number of crashes is not necessarily related to the length of the cyclist network or the number of users. Finally he presented the event RuedaLab is organizing on the 8th and 9th of November in Bogotá, which has received 67 papers from 11 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. During the moderated discussion, the topic of how to promote cycling in cities with steep slopes was discussed, and electric bicycles were one of the solutions proposed. The topic of how to educate people in order to promote cycling was also discussed, with Sean Cooke mentioning that changing habits in older people is very difficult and that education is better focused on young people.



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| <p>Recommendations that emerged from these discussions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is essential to make good decisions in active transport, but that data is lacking in most cases (Ruedalab is an effort to reduce that data gap, as well as the UNEP report and index) • Commitments are not necessarily the same as performance in active transport policy implementation – there actually seems to be little relationship between them • There are many positive examples of improving active transport policies, which are not difficult to replicate in other places. |
| <p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 1st speaker at your event.</p> | <p>Carlos Felipe Pardo/ Colombian/ Executive Director/ Despacio</p> |
| <p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 2nd speaker at your event.</p> | <p>Sean Cooke/ South African/ Professor/ University of Cape Town</p> |
| <p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 3rd speaker at your event.</p> | <p>Pedro Bravo/ Spanish/ Independent/None</p> |
| <p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 4th speaker at your event.</p> | <p>Daniel Paez/ Colombian/ Director of the Group of Studies in Urban and Regional Sustainability/ Universidad de los Andes</p> |
| <p>Dissemination of the outcomes of your event?</p> | <p>The information of the Side Event, including the presentations and conclusions, have been published in Despacio’s web page (http://despacio.org/2016/08/25/habitat-iii-despacio/) and disseminated on social media through the @deespacio account and others from co-organizers of the side event .</p> |