



United Nations

— HABITAT III —
SIDE EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of the lead organization	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) hosted by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
City and country where the lead organization is based	Geneva, Switzerland
Title of the event	Urban Dignity: Equal Access to Sanitation and Hygiene in Public Spaces
Date	10/18/2016
Room number	MR8
List of partner organizations	Slum Dwellers International: Cape Town, South Africa; Government of Tanzania: Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania; Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA): Stockholm, Sweden; Government of Nepal: Minister of Urban Development; UN Habitat: Nairobi, Kenya
Number of attendees	81-100
Percentage of women participating	51-60%
Background information on the event (themes, issues, context).	<p>The world's urban and semi-urban areas are facing a sanitation crisis: 1/3 of the 2.4 billion without safe sanitation and hygiene live in cities, slums, large and small towns. In particular, most public spaces in Africa, Asia and Latin America lack basic sanitation and hygiene. This is as true for public schools, soccer pitches, transport hubs or open market in towns as it is for parks, gardens, railway stations, and municipal squares in major cities. The absence of safe and hygienic sanitation options forces pregnant women, girls and boys, disabled people and the elderly, among others, to avoid public spaces and enjoy many of the economic and social attributes associated with these potentially safe environments. With this in mind, the WSSCC side event sought to draw attention to and elevate the importance of sanitation and hygiene for the realization of urban dignity; elevate innovative approaches to improving sanitation in public spaces; and promote national policy options and multi-sector platforms that engender urban dignity and create incentives and opportunities to improve sanitation and the environmental health of human settlements, large and small.</p>



United Nations

— HABITAT III —
SIDE EVENT REPORT

<p>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed</p>	<p>The side event kicked off with opening remarks by Chris and some 100 attendees went on to hear from representatives of two partner organizations of Slum Dwellers International from India and Zimbabwe, Tanzanian parliamentarian and former WSSCC Chair Anna Tibaijuka, the Deputy Director General of SIDA Marie Ottosson, the Nepal Minister of Urban Development Honourable Arjun Narsingh, and WHO/UN-Habitat Chief of Waste Management and Sanitation Graham Alabaster. In discussing the social and economic impact of inadequate access to basic sanitation and hygiene services, speakers drew attention to the need for a holistic human rights approach to urban sanitation in the planning process to ensure equal access and use by those which need it most. Graham, for example, underlined the importance of partnership-building at the local level, including the “involvement of community groups and local authorities in the design and implementation of successful and sustainable sanitation and hygiene programs”. The session was closed by WSSCC former Steering Committee Member professor Edgar Quiroga, who reiterated the importance of strategic cooperation “with government at different levels as well as civil society organizations in order to improve sanitation and hygiene in urban spaces” and respond to the various related SDGs.</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 1st speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Sekai Chiremba, Zimbabwe, Federation Leader, Zimbabwe Homeless People's Federation, Partner of Slum Dwellers International</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 2nd speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Anna Tibaijuka, Tanzanian, Member of Parliament, Government of Tanzania</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 3rd speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Marie Ottosson, Sweden, Deputy Director General, SIDA</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 4th speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Honorable Arjun Narsingh KC, Nepal, Minister of Urban Development, Government of Nepal</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 5th speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Graham Alabaster, Chief Waste Management & Sanitation, UN-HABITAT/WHO</p>



United Nations

— HABITAT III —
SIDE EVENT REPORT

Name, nationality, title and organization of the 6th speaker at your event.	Chris Williams, United States, Executive Director, WSSCC
Dissemination of the outcomes of your event?	We plan to disseminate outcomes via our websites and social media channels.