



United Nations

— **HABITAT III** —  
URBAN LIBRARY REPORT

| <b>Submitted by Lead Organization</b>  |  |
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| <b>Name of lead organization</b>   | Ax:son Johnson Foundation  |
| <b>City and country where organization is based</b>  | Stockholm, Sweden  |
| <b>Title of Urban Library event</b>  | Public Space in the New Urban Agenda   |
| <b>Date of Urban Library event</b>   | 10/19/2016   |
| <b>Name of partner organizations with information on city, and country where organization is based</b> | UN-Habitat, Nairobi Kenya; Project for Public Spaces, New York NY USA  |
| <b>Number of participants</b>  | 100  |
| <b>Percentage of women participants at the event</b>   | 60%  |
| <b>Background information on Urban Library event (themes, issues, context).</b>                        | Implementation issues for the New Urban Agenda, and in particular, issues of the creation and maintenance of quality public space, as the essential framework of the city. |



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| <p><b>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed.</b></p> | <p>The purpose of this session was to explore the key issues of implementation of the New Urban Agenda, relating to the central role of public space systems. Why is public space critically important for cities, and the people who live there? How can it be created, protected and enhanced, in adequate quantity and quality? What lessons for public space systems also apply to other aspects of implementation of the New Urban Agenda? The session began with the key conclusions of the Future of Places forum, a four-year partnership of UN-Habitat, Project for Public Spaces, and Ax:son Johnson Foundation, its NGO host. The session sought to outline a research agenda for implementation of the New Urban Agenda, to inform a proposed research network that aims to assist with finding and/or developing and disseminating key research lessons that can aid in persuading, enabling, guiding, or otherwise effecting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It sought to convene members of national and local governments, UN agencies, research institutions, communities, NGOs, private sector companies, professionals and others, to identify and take forward the collaborations that will be needed to implement this core "public space agenda." Topics discussed: - What (and where) are the key levers for action and transformational change? - What (and where) are the enabling tools and resources that will be required at global, national and local levels, to support implementation? - What are the key recommendations for the implementation, on national, local and global levels? - How can we develop key networks and partnerships to facilitate collaborative dialogue, exchange, cooperation and research among partners and local authorities in driving the New Urban Agenda forward into implementation?</p> |
| <p><b>Concise summary of the publication launched or promoted at the event.</b></p>     | <p>Implementing the New Urban Agenda: The Central Role of Public Space Systems (forthcoming; first volume of research findings and resources for change)</p>  |
| <p><b>Name, title, and organization of the 1st speaker</b></p>                          | <p>Raf Tuts, Belgium, Director, Programme Division, UN-Habitat</p>  |
| <p><b>Name, title, and organization of the 2nd speaker</b></p>                          | <p>Michael W Mehaffy, Ph.D., Academic Chair, Future of Places (Ax:son Johnson Foundation)</p>   |
| <p><b>Name, title, and organization of the 3rd speaker</b></p>                          | <p>Setha Low, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology and Director, Public Space Research Group, City University of New York</p>   |
| <p><b>Name, title, and organization of the 4th speaker</b></p>                          | <p>Joanna Alimanestianu, Co-founder, Council for European Urbanism</p>  |



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| <b>Name, title, and organization of the 5th speaker</b> | Doug Kelbaugh, Professor of Architecture, University of Michigan |
| <b>Name, title, and organization of the 6th speaker</b> | Jose Chong, Urban Planning Expert, UN-Habitat                    |
| <b>Name, title, and organization of the 7th speaker</b> | Ethan Kent, Senior Vice President, Project for Public Spaces     |