

Habitat 3, Stakeholder Consultations

PANEL 4, 7 June, Alison Brown, Stakeholder Comment

My name is Alison Brown, urban planner and urban activist and member of Policy Unit 1.

Despite much good content, the Zero Draft is largely silent on cities affected by crises and conflict and how we implement the New Urban Agenda and conflict-affected settings.

I welcome the reference in Paragraph 34 on the “need to provide adequate services, accommodation and decent and productive work for **conflict-affected persons**”, and references to urban resilience. But as Panelist Maria Benavides said, recovery from conflict is a core urban agenda, and cities such as Medellin have shown the powerful role of urban vision and planning, and partnerships in recovery from conflict and violence.

Crises – ranging from natural disasters, to the impact of war and on-going urban violence – create much hardship, but also opportunities to implement the New Urban Agenda, and its new urban paradigm, such as the Right to the City can provide.

But **cities** not just people needs support during the recovery process.

Local governments are at the forefront of recovery and need support response capacity.

Citizens and communities also have powerful potential to support recovery through solidarity approaches, such as my research with UN-Habitat on post-conflict urban informal economies is demonstrating.

We need mechanisms, knowledge exchange and partnerships across governments and civil society, to react quickly, develop vision and move from humanitarian assistance to development, in order to produce just, inclusive and sustainable cities that the New Urban Agenda demands.