



United Nations

— HABITAT III — NETWORKING EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of lead organization	African Centre for Cities; African Urban Research Institute (AURI)
City and country where lead organization is based	Cape Town, South Africa
Title of the event	The New Urban Agenda in the Global South: Engaging Research in Policy-Making
Date of Networking Event	10/18/2016
Networking Event room number	5
Name of partner organizations with city and country where these organizations are based	Cities Alliance; African Urban Research Initiative (AURI); Network Association Of European Researchers On Urbanization In The South (N-AERUS); Network Of Sustainable Urban Development Study Centres In Latin America And The Caribbean (REDEUS_LAC)
Number of participants	80
Percentage of women participants	60%
Background information on Networking Event (themes, issues, context).	<p>The event was concerned with engaging the question of bridging research and policy-making. This concern with the role of knowledge based institutions in influencing policy-making is informed by a special interest in forwarding knowledge co-production partnerships, in the context of rapid urbanisation and the pressures of globalisation being felt now more than ever in cities of the global south. Concerned with the potential of applied urban research, and engaging in dialogue on ways to improve access to and translation of urban research to enhance policy formulation, the event brought together research networks from different regions to share experiences and debate how to better engage with the policy makers, ministers, local governments and practitioners in general. With the support of Cities Alliance, three networks dedicated to sustainability challenges in the global south joined forces to host this event – the African Urban Research Initiative (AURI), the Network Association of European Researchers on Urbanization in the South (N-AERUS) and the Network of Sustainable Urban Development Study Centres in Latin America and the Caribbean (REDEUS_LAC).</p>



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Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed.	<p>The event was constituted of three rounds of discussion, engaging each of the three networks within each round. The first round served as an introduction to each of the networks (its origin, aims, membership and research foci). Round 2 focused on outlining the research interests within each network with a specific interest in how these spoke to the thematic concerns of the New Urban Agenda. The final round was concerned with reflecting on the relevance of academia for policy-formulation & decision-making. Key points emerging from these engagements related firstly to the points of commonality between the three networks. That is, whilst working in different regions and contexts it became clear that there were a number of overlapping thematic concerns including informality, urban governance and planning. A second area of commonality related to the 'knowledge production' methodologies in use across the three networks. In this case, it was clear that there was common commitment to action oriented research, and specifically a practice of knowledge 'co-production' or collaboration between academia, public sector and civil society actors. Interestingly, whilst this was a commonality, it was also apparent that the ways in which this methodology was framed and practiced differed across the networks, including distinctions in the location of activism and/or policy-formulation within the framing. The event was well attended and generated interesting discussion both on the themes of research in the context of the new urban agenda, as well as the question of the relationship between research and policy formulation.</p>
Recommendations emerged from discussions at the Networking Event .	<p>Recommendations relate specifically to the question of how to proceed in nurturing the relationships between the 3 networks and supporting the grounded implementation of the NUA. In this case, a debriefing session was held after the event, with a range of points surfacing on how the 3 networks may take this agenda forward. These included recommendations/emerging agreements on the development of a critical overview of the tensions and related policy-implications within the NUA; developing a discussion paper on overlapping 'methodologies of knowledge co-production' across the 3 networks; active engagement in the annual meetings of each other's networks; the prospect of a joint research project across the networks.</p>
Full name, title, and organization of the 1st speaker	Suraya Scheba, Dr., African Centre for Cities/ African Urban Research Initiative
Full name, title, and organization of the 2nd speaker	N-Aerus



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Full name, title, and organization of the 3rd speaker	Juan Carlos Munoz, Director, Centre for Sustainable Urban Development (CEDEUS)
Full name, title, and organization of the 4th speaker	Omar Nagati Co-founder CLUSTER (Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research)
Full name, title, and organization of the 5th speaker	Wolfgang Scholz German Dr.-Eng., Assoc. Prof. German University of Technology, Oman TU Dortmund University, Faculty of Spatial Planning. Germany wolfgang.scholz@tu-dortmund.de
Full name, title, and organization of the 6th speaker	Margarita Greene Coordinator of REDEUS_LAC; Principal Researcher Centre for Sustainable Urban Development (CEDEUS), Full Professor Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC); mgreenez@uc.cl; +56 9 9731 2914
Full name, title, and organization of the 7th speaker	Allan Cain; Director of Development Workshop
Full name, title, and organization of the 7th speaker	Serge Allou, Lead Urban Specialist, Cities Alliance