



## THEMATIC PANEL ON PUBLIC SPACES, INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

### HABITAT III OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2016, CONFERENCE ROOM 3

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

#### **Presentations**

- Mr. Lluís Brau, Principal of Nova Gestió SLP, urban and regional planning office, Barcelona, Spain
- Mr. William Jiyana, Deputy Director-General, Human Settlements Strategic Partnerships
- Mr. Udi Carmeli, Deputy Director, Urban Planning Department, Tel Aviv, Israel

#### **Panel Discussions**

##### **Moderator**

Robert Lewis Lettington, Chief, Legislation Unit, UN-Habitat

##### **Panelists**

- Veronica Katalushi, Huairou Commission and Grassroots Member
- Lucy Earle, Urban Adviser for the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID), UK
- Eytan Schwartz, CEO, Tel Aviv Global, former Senior Advisor to the Mayor

#### **The Barcelona Declaration on Public Spaces**

The public space should be free of charge and free from physical, legal and architectural barriers. The public space should also be versatile to allow multiple uses and accesses and should reflect a human scale, a territorial distribution and a degree of integration with the immediate surroundings. The design process should be a co-production of stakeholders input and include physical, cultural and social identities that define a place.

*Four key areas of recommendation were identified;*

##### **Economy**

- Promote the mainstreaming of social and solidarity economy in all sectors and foster micro, small and medium scale – both formal and informal – economic activities.
- Introduce regulatory frameworks that guarantee the territorial balance in urban-rural linkages through public space networks.
- Include governance that ensures the preservation of territorial, peri-urban and urban land for food production by small-scale food producers from real-estate speculation.



#### *Mobility*

- Planning measures and rules that guarantee in a quantitative way the creation of accessible public spaces for all with a priority for pedestrian and cycling mobility must be defined.
- Public policies and urban planning should foster public transport, which must have a good spatial and temporal distribution
- Urban planning capacity to make strategic public spaces plans at the scale of the city, the districts and the street level should be developed.

#### *Housing*

- Housing policies need to foster local integrated housing approaches.
- Social housing with quality public space should become the norm rather than exception in cities ; prioritizing urban renewal.
- Policies and interventions should promote alternative housing options, shifting from a predominant private ownership to rentals and tenure diversity.
- Land and housing equipped with quality public space should be subjected to fair taxation and value capture mechanisms.
- Regulation of the private market and rentals control as well as discouraging empty housing can counteract the worldwide speculative escalation of rental prices in the most attractive locations, leading to the evictions.

*A full version of the Barcelona Declaration is available at [www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/rt-meetings](http://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/rt-meetings) or on this link [here](#).*

#### **The Pretoria Declaration on Informal Settlements**

There are around one billion slum dwellers worldwide, compared to three quarters of a billion in 1996. If curative and preventative policies are not initiated, sustained and up scaled, this is expected to increase threefold by 2050.

As the New Urban Agenda should be an ambitious, robust, action-oriented and implementable, we;

- Call for the issue of evictions to be addressed in the New Urban Agenda.
- Prioritize in situ upgrading and stress that North-South, South-South, triangular, regional and international cooperation are crucial steps in improving national and local capacities in upgrading informal settlements.
- Continue strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Acknowledge that informal settlements' diversity should be addressed by using participatory, inclusive and institutionalized approaches.
- Recommend that strong coordination mechanisms, frameworks and structures at national and local level be institutionalized.
- We further stress the need for a new comprehensive financing framework to address the settlements upgrading needs.



- Stress that credible and timely data and research is necessary to understand and recognize the drivers and dynamics of urbanization and the situation in informal settlements.
- Suggest governments at all levels, including local and regional authorities, to explicitly and systematically integrate migration into their regular urban planning processes.

*We Stress the importance for a New Urban Agenda that;*

- Is sustainable and socially inclusive, and empowers individuals and communities, especially women.
- Advances inclusive urban, land, fiscal and housing policies, legislation and governance frameworks.
- Adopts participatory urban planning and design as well as incremental participatory slum upgrading to transform informal settlements in inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable settlements with access to affordable basic services.
- Strengthens local government and improves urban governance and management in a measurable way.
- Recommends the development of strong urban planning and land use strategies and offers a continuum of tenure security for slum dwellers.
- Adequately equips National, sub-National and Local authorities, as well as slum dwellers, with strategic partnerships for sustained and affordable financing strategies for participatory incremental sustainable slum upgrading and prevention.
- Supports economic vibrancy and diversity and ensures access to income opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.
- Promotes strategies that enhance social cohesion among communities living in informal settlements by among others ensuring inclusive participation, equal opportunity and transparency.

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### **The Tel-Aviv Declaration on Civic Engagement**

*To adopt a Smart Civic Engagement Strategy;*

- Smart Civic Engagement should be embedded in the Strategic framework and vision for the city, as central guidelines to leverage development and wellbeing.
- Multi-disciplinary approaches, wide public participation, consensus building, Early completion of the Plan, Early Formulation of Actions Plans, transparent planning process as well as Empowerment of the Municipality should be the basis for planning with “smart civic engagement”.
- Take into account the need to continually build citizen trust and capacity.

*A vision of a citizen-centered Municipality*

- Citizens’ welfare should be at the heart of a citizen-centered municipality.

*Civic Engagement becoming the Norm*

- A corporate culture that supports public participation and we advocate public dialogue as a normative operating mode of the municipal units.

*Creating Multiple Platforms for continuous civic engagement*



- Undertake extensive investment in developing tools and integrating the concept of public participation in the municipalities; development of innovative platforms for public engagement and participation.

*Smart Civic Engagement*

- Persistently pursuing the utilization of cutting-edge technologies to enable learning, creativity and sharing. “Smart technologies” as an integral part of the cities’ civic engagement framework.
- Use the technological and social tools available to the city to enable better use of information and communication technologies.

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## GUIDING QUESTIONS

### FOR THEMATIC PANEL ON PUBLIC SPACES, INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

1. How can we balance the need for stand alone policies as opposed to the need to integrate these areas into other fields of public policy and private practice?
2. How will we define and monitor effectiveness that is both achievable (in terms of time, capacity, resources etc) and meaningful (in terms of sufficient transformative outcomes)?
3. What are the most important implementation principles or approaches that would have impact but that we can also build consensus around in Quito?

