



**PANEL ON RIGHT TO THE CITY AND CITIES FOR ALL<sup>1</sup>  
(Policy Unit 1)**

**HABITAT III OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS  
TUESDAY 26 APRIL 2016, CONFERENCE ROOM 3**

**10 A.M. - 11 A.M.**

***Introduction***

Jose Carrera, Vice-president for Social Development, Development Bank of Latin America, CAF

***Moderator***

Sandeep Chachra, Executive Director of Action Aid India

***Panelists***

- Ilaria Boniburini - Senior Lecturer, University Rwanda
- Martin Bryant - Professor, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
- Sally Roever - Director, Urban Policies Programme, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), USA
- Nelson Saule Jr., Coordinator of the Right to the City Area, Polis Institute, Brazil
- Dina Shehayeb, Professor, Housing and Building National Research Center, Cairo, Egypt
- Anthony Bosah, Charge d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria

**VISION**

Habitat III provides a unique opportunity for the New Urban Agenda to enhance and extend human rights perspectives in their application to cities and human settlements, and embrace a shift in the predominant urban pattern in order to minimize socio-spatial injustices, enhance equity, socio-spatial inclusion, political participation and a decent life for all inhabitants.

The right to the city is a new paradigm that provides an alternative framework to re-think cities and urbanization. It envisions the effective fulfillment of all internationally agreed human rights, sustainable development objectives as expressed through the Sustainable Development Goals, and the commitments of the Habitat Agenda. Against this framework, it nevertheless brings a new dimension to serve as foundation for the New Urban Agenda based on an understanding of the city as a place that strives to guarantee a decent and full life for all inhabitants.

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<sup>1</sup>Information Habitat III Policy Unit 1 and its Policy Paper is available at  
[www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/policy](http://www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/policy)



### Defining the right to the city

The Right to the City is thus defined as the right of all inhabitants present and future, to occupy, use and produce just, inclusive and sustainable cities, defined as a common good essential to the quality of life. The Right to the City further implies responsibilities on governments and people to claim, defend, and promote this right. The City as a common good contains the following components:

- **A city free of discrimination** based on gender, age, health status, income, nationality, ethnicity, migratory condition, or political, religious or sexual orientation
- **A city of inclusive citizenship** in which all inhabitants, whether permanent or transitional, are considered as citizens and granted equal rights; e.g. women, those living in poverty or situations of environmental risk, informal economy workers, ethnic and religious groups, LGBT persons, the differently abled, children, youth, the elderly, migrants, refugees, street dwellers, victims of violence and indigenous peoples.
- **A city with enhanced political participation** in the definition, implementation, monitoring, and budgeting of urban policies and spatial planning in order to strengthen the transparency, effectiveness and inclusion of the diversity of inhabitants and their organizations.
- **A city fulfilling its social functions**, that is, ensuring equitable access for all to shelter, goods, services and urban opportunities, particularly for women and other marginalized groups; a city that prioritizes the collectively defined public interest, ensuring a socially just and environmentally balanced use of urban and rural spaces.
- **A city with quality public spaces** that enhances social interactions and political participation, promotes socio-cultural expressions, embraces diversity, and fosters social cohesion; a city where public spaces contribute to building safer cities and to meeting the needs of inhabitants.
- **A city of gender equality** which adopts all necessary measures to combat discrimination in all its forms against women, men, and LGBT people in political, social, economic and cultural terms; a city which takes all appropriate measures to ensure the full development of women, to guarantee them equality in the exercise and fulfillment of fundamental human rights, and a life free of violence.
- **A city with cultural diversity**, which respects, protects, and promotes the diverse livelihoods, customs, memory, identities, expressions, and socio-cultural forms of its inhabitants.
- **A city with inclusive economies** that ensures access to secure livelihoods and decent work for all inhabitants, that gives room to other economies, such as solidarity economy, sharing economy, circular economy, and **that acknowledges the role of women in the care economy.**
- **A city as a system within the settlement and common ecosystem** that respects rural-urban linkages, and protects biodiversity, natural habitats, and surrounding ecosystems, and supports city-regions, city-town cooperation, and connectivity.



## KEY MESSAGES / PRINCIPLES

- Urban spatial strategies: access for all to the resources and opportunities of city life
- Urban governance: access for all to transparent and inclusive urban governance
- Urban economy: economic rights as a core component of the right to the city
- Social aspects: right to safety, security and wellbeing
- Urban environment: access for all to resilient cities encompassing biodiverse and unpolluted urban environments

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. *Spatially-just Resource Distribution*

#### **Land for housing and livelihoods, and the de-commodification of urban space**

- To recognize in urban policy the 'social function of property (space, housing and habitat)';
- Right to adequate housing in policy and legislative frameworks, recognize Land Use Planning Principles as essential;
- Housing tenure types other than freehold ownership, reflecting the various needs and preferences of different groups towards providing adequate security of tenure in a continuum of tenure types;
- Forced evictions as a violation of human rights principles and ensure that national legal and judicial systems align with treaty obligations;
- Innovative and more inclusive housing finance systems including through incentives to low cost housing finance providers and alternative financial institutions;
- Co-responsibility between public and private sector for the provision of social housing;
- Nexus between housing and urban planning practice.
- Mixed land-use, planned city extensions or urban in-fills combined with better transport infrastructure;
- New spatial forms for cities to promote decent and well-connected job creation;
- Housing management (in multi-family housing estates) and the utility service provision are appropriate and affordable;
- Urban planning mechanisms to capture increases in land value, redistribute this towards social housing and public space provision, and minimize vacant property rates;

#### **Urban commons, public space and biodiversity**

- Provide local governments the capacity to adequately design the network of public space;
- To celebrate the diverse role of public space and implement laws and regulations that establish enabling systems to create, revitalize, manage, and maintain public space;
- To work with communities in urban design to foster social inclusion, enabling urban livelihoods;
- Protect the quality and quantity of public space in unplanned areas and informal settlements; reduce the trend of privatization of public space and keep it free from violence;
- To protect all elements of the urban ecosystem (green spaces, urban forests, waterfronts, etc.);
- To invest in "green infrastructure" and promote development that is embedded in the principle of resource-efficiency;



- To improve air quality and reduce noise pollution and reduce energy consumption especially fossil fuel based;
- To reduce construction impacts through adequate policies, codes and community participation;

#### **Access to basic services and infrastructure, and controlling pollution**

- To understand the linkage between availability, accessibility, affordability, and adequacy of basic services for the realization of human rights;
- To develop policies and programs with and for inhabitants;
- To comprehensively reform urban infrastructure policies in cities to improve the enabling environment for investment;
- To implement an effective, well-coordinated and integrated infrastructure planning system, recognizing new emerging coordination mechanisms;
- To develop new business models, technological innovations and strategic partnerships;

#### **Unplanned and informal settlements habitation**

- To address the challenge of unplanned and informal settlements in partnership with poor inhabitants, providing an enabling environment to develop and implement the appropriate policies and plans;
- To understand the nature of exclusion in unplanned or informal settlements;
- To place housing at the center and develop city-wide strategies and programs to improve the lives of poor inhabitants;
- To consider appropriate long term financial investment and inclusive financing options;
- To support community-led upgrading initiatives and open-source/co-produced knowledge

#### **Resilience, climate change, disaster and risk management**

- To focus on urban planning and design to create compact, connected, integrated, inclusive cities
- To institutionalize an appropriate legislative, policy and regulatory framework, crucial in enhancing resiliency, mitigating climate change, resource efficiency, and sustainability.
- To recognize the interconnectedness of economic and resilience/climate benefits
- To recognize the need to leverage city planning instruments to reduce existing risk and prevent the creation of new risks while preparing for climate and disaster risks.

## **2. Political Agency**

#### **Inclusive governance**

- Streamline the Right to the City in legislation, city charters, political and citizenship compacts;
- Effective decentralized framework to unlock urban and regional governance
- Policies to support broader partnerships in local governance
- Territorial approach in governance arrangements for macro-regional and regional territories
- Use of technologies for innovative public management, participation, and accountability

#### **Inclusive urban planning**

- Innovative urban planning solutions and integrated urban planning policy across all levels of governments.
- Spatial strategies and national urban policies that ensure a regional and cross-sector approach to human settlement planning.



- Participatory co-production of planning interventions involving all urban inhabitants, including principles of gender equality in all urban planning and policies.
- To invest in transparent, accessible open-source, and community-driven data and mapping, and integrate this with existing data sources.
- Implement the universal right of access to quality basic services, right to mobility in all transport planning and provision
- Strategies of public services with gender perspective.

#### **Citizenship**

- To review legal systems to ensure that they establish new status and criteria for citizenship
- To establish systems and processes that benchmark participation of the reviewed citizenship
- To develop mechanisms that ensures that disadvantaged inhabitants have an equal say in participatory processes
- To establish human rights monitoring mechanisms, such as local ombudsmen, non-discrimination offices, or human rights city committees.

#### **Enabling participation, transparency and democratization**

- To create decision-making support tools that ensures the proactive participation of a multiplicity of actors.
- To establish and protect spaces and institutional structures that effectively supports negotiation between government and all urban actors.
- To enhance inhabitants' participation through training, access to grants in transparent conditions or by strengthening the dialogue between civil society organizations and governments.
- To enable different forms of participation: use of public spaces, online fora, or public and community-based media.
- To work to integrate and build capacity among social actors and the informal sector in local governance through innovations.
- To promote transparency in financial, administrative and political governance processes.

#### **Recognition of gender, social actors – migration and refugees**

- To develop training programs for women on participation and leadership.
- To ensure access to public services and justice for all social actors;
- To implement access to migrants and refugees' areas for diagnosis and monitoring issues;
- To fight prejudice against marginalized, and implement better policing of areas where migrants and refugees reside.
- To implement city plans for migrants and refugees in terms of housing, education, jobs.

### **3. Socio, Economic and Cultural Diversity**

#### **Livelihoods, wellbeing and welfare**

- Protect and promote decent work and secure livelihoods; urban workers from evictions, harassment and discrimination at their workplace
- Prioritize infrastructure development to improve working conditions and enhance growth of both formal and informal sectors;
- Build capacities among women and the vulnerable
- To formulate, implement and/or enforce labour laws and regulations that protect urban workers from exploitation and ensure safety standards



#### **Poverty risk and employment opportunities**

- To promote public-private sector partnerships for job opportunities
- To formulate and implement social protection systems
- To formulate and implement policies that allow migrants and refugees access to decent work
- To establish programs to empower women and young people in accessing decent work;

#### **Inclusive economy and solidarity economy**

- To develop policies and enact legislation that formally recognize and support the existence, contributions, and potential of the solidarity economy
- To enact programs that allocate space and resources to: a) promote collective credit, services, production and consumption; and b) promote exchange (e.g. time banks) and fair trade.
- To develop policies and enact legislation that prioritize human dignity, well-being, and livelihoods through solidarity economy activities.
- To recognize the potential of movements and initiatives that strive to develop alternative models of housing provision

#### **Embracing identity, cultural practice, diversity and heritage**

- To enhance local culture and recognize cultural diversity as an effective way to mitigate urban conflict and violence, foster tolerance, social innovation, preserve social fabrics and pluralism.
- To foster urban art and culture as a means to develop new collective imaginaries
- To foster civil society empowerment to value and protect tangible and intangible heritage.
- To develop a sense of ownership by all groups of inhabitants in the urban commons

#### **Safer cities**

- To develop knowledge and collect rigorous, consistent data on forms of violence
- To establish 'safe city' urban observatories as core centres for knowledge on crime and violence.
- To incorporate violence-mitigation measures into all planning and design of the urban commons
- To adopt a multi-level and multi-sectorial approach, including community-based to address the diverse causes of crime and violence;
- To build capacities and train police and security forces on human rights approaches and fight prejudice against the urban poor, ethnic groups, and young people as perpetrators of crime.
- To incorporate inclusion and non-violence in security agendas and provide opportunities for young people as a means to fight their incorporation to criminal gangs.
- To promote culturally sensitive actions and processes in public spaces and communities to support inclusion and vitality in the city
- To combat the creation of gated communities and privatization of public space



## GUIDING QUESTIONS

### FOR PANEL ON RIGHT TO THE CITY AND CITIES FOR ALL

1. Why the Right to the City and Cities for all now? What is happening in the world that we need a change in paradigm?
2. What would be the key pillar to achieve more inclusive cities?
3. Where to start? What are some key actions that need to be taken? How do we prioritize them?