



United Nations

HABITAT III POLICY DIALOGUES

Right to the City and Cities for All

Tuesday, 18 October 2016

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Room 15-Teatro Demetrio Aguilera, Casa de la Cultura

Lead Organizations:

ActionAid

CAF-Development Bank of Latin America

1. Summary of the Dialogue and key messages of the Discussion

The Right to the City has been widely mentioned as a paradigm that offers a new framework for rethinking cities and the urbanization process. Its definition was established in Policy Unit 1 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 dialogue focused on sharing thoughts from a variety of actors and regions, about how to take concrete actions to implement the ideas contained in the Right to the City and Cities for All, as a guiding principle to guarantee a more inclusive and sustainable New Urban Agenda.

2. Action-oriented Recommendations/ way forward within the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

The paper produced by Policy Unit contains many action-oriented recommendations. Specifically, it targets three core pillars: Spatially Just Resource Distribution, Political Agency, and Socio, Economic and Cultural Diversity. These pillars were discussed in two blocks that provided specific recommendations on how to implement changes around investments in infrastructure, the “built city,” and the governance mechanisms of cities, including designing inclusive public policies.

Some of the specific recommendations include:

- Acceptable quality standards for basic services including public spaces and the urban commons
- Increasing investments in basic infrastructures and services (e.g. water, electricity, waste, and sanitation)
- Designing appropriate, accessible and affordable transportation options
- Providing appropriate and dignified housing and settlements
- Investing in education and healthcare
- Investing in the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, and in climate change protection
- Ensuring that women, as well as marginalized groups, have effective access to political agency

- Providing transparency, accountability, and the democratization of data for decision making
- Embracing diversity and difference in gender, identity, ethnicity, religion, heritage, collective memory, cultural and economic practice, and socio--cultural expression.

3. Way forward and next steps on monitoring the outcomes and the commitments from the Dialogue

The dialogue brought to light the role of civil organizations in monitoring and following up with the guidelines of the Right to the City at the national and local levels. Particularly, the role of the Global Platform for the Right to the City. The Global Platform for the Right to the City is an initiative of a group of organizations that met in São Paulo in November 2014 with the purpose of building an international movement.

The dialogue also addressed the importance of building partnerships amongst a diverse group of actors that include national and local governments, academic and international institutions to bringing to light the importance of building more inclusive cities and providing guidance for authorities on how to concrete affect change in their cities.

4. Proposed partnerships, network and synergies with other Stakeholders within the implementation of the New Urban Agenda

Amongst the organizations that are actively engaged in the dialogues around The Right to the City and Cities for All are: Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Action Aid, Cities Alliance, International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI), Commission on Human Rights, UCLG, National Urban Reform Forum, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), Habitat for Humanity, Global Fund for the Development of Cities, Streetnet and the Ford Foundation.