



United Nations

HABITAT III
SIDE EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of the lead organization	Habitat for Humanity International
City and country where the lead organization is based	Atlanta, GA
Title of the event	Evidence from Practice for Action: Ensuring Informed Implementation of the New Urban Agenda
Date	10/17/2016
Room number	Urban Future Room
List of partner organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Institute: Washington, DC • Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): Washington, DC, USA • MINVU: Government of Chile Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs: Santiago, Chile • Cities Alliance: Brussels, Belgium • National Association of Realtors: Washington, DC, USA • Habitat for Humanity Brazil: Recife, Brazil • Habitat for Humanity's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter, Atlanta, GA, USA
Number of attendees	81-100
Percentage of women participating	51-60%
Background information on the event (themes, issues, context).	<p>This event connected housing practitioners with research to support informed implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Researchers presented key findings and recommendations for the practices that contribute to increasing access to land, housing, and finance for poor and vulnerable populations. Implementing partners addressed this research, shared its value for informing policy, and linked to tangible impacts in the field. Event attendees were equipped with information and cross-sector connections to provide support throughout the NUA implementation process. Three key themes were addressed: access to adequate and affordable housing, access to land for housing, and access to finance.</p>



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<p>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed</p>	<p>Stephen Seidel from Habitat for Humanity International acted as moderator, and he divided the session into two sections: Research presentations: 1. Access to adequate and affordable housing: Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), Cities Alliance and the IDB have sponsored a Global Housing Research Initiative. Sara McTarnaghan from Urban Institute is analyzing the current state of this research and reported her finding that there is a shortage of evidence in existence around housing issues in LAC. The studies that have been released are often inaccessible for professional audiences, giving McTarnaghan reason to aim to broaden the scope of research focused on rental programs, advocacy efforts, spatial segregation, and quality of life in rural and peri-urban areas going forward. 2. Access to land for housing: The GLTN of UN-Habitat and its members are conducting scoping studies of such land issues around the world, and consultant Paola Siclari presented on one of these studies from the LAC region. She spoke on the study's findings, one of which has been the realization that insecure tenure is a consequence of inconveniently located, poorly urbanized, inaccessible land. In the future, Siclari hopes to learn how to best respond to demands for technical assistance and consolidate a repository of best practices, methodologies, and instruments on the SueloUrbano website. 3. Access to finance: Sandra Prieto reported on the study conducted by HFHI's Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter, which surveyed almost 90 microfinance institutions around the world. The study includes analysis of the product features, portfolio performance, non-financial technical assistance for housing, and a business case for housing microfinance. By presenting this study along with the Global State of Housing Microfinance report, Prieto communicated to audience members the extensive value of housing microfinance, including its ability to improve quality of life, health, safety, security of tenure, and economic opportunities. Panelists' reactions: • Barbara Richards emphasized three opportunities moving forward: a strong network of researchers, existing knowledge-sharing platforms for conversation, and the systematization of research. She insisted that systematizing research will be no easy process moving forward, but that we must stack hands to ensure its realization. • Robin Rajack delivered a three pronged message to audience members: firstly, there needs to be stronger link between research and operational change on the ground. Our focus on specific policies and programs will be the mechanisms through which the New Urban Agenda gets implemented. Secondly, international development banks are very much thinking about this connection, reflecting a concerted effort to bring together the different dimensions of the New Urban Agenda. Thirdly, we need frameworks that inform local work. International development agencies often do not know the situation on the ground, and we need to ensure research is localized and specific. • Billy Cobbett described housing policy in the context of contested urbanization, saying that policy makers at the local level must respond to conditions as they are rather than as they wish they could be. Most of our implementers, he pointed out, are the urban poor themselves, and our biggest obstacle is dysfunctional urban land markets. • David Wluka emphasized that you cannot fix what you cannot measure. He introduced audience members to the concept of inertia, saying that resistance to change is always present, and that it takes activism to overcome this inertia. Our research has no value if it is not supported by those on the ground, Wluka reminded us, and in implementation work, there is great value to secondary markets. • Socorro Leite encouraged audience members to consider limits in their respective countries, as well as to think about conflicts that occur in spaces that are not widely publicized. Access to land, Leite reminded us, must be mediated by the State, and it is important to think about how the State's actions affect the poorest individuals in our cities.</p>
<p>Recommendations that emerged from these discussions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and cultivate a strong network of researchers and practitioners • Develop localized and informed research • Advance secondary markets and microfinance programs • Continue with advocacy efforts to ensure implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Housing at the Center of its implementation.



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<p>Partnerships or collaborations that emerged from the event.</p>	<p>Habitat for Humanity in, partnership with other organizations, also continues to develop the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub, a second tier platform supported on sectorial and national ongoing housing knowledge activities and work performed by its members. This Hub will be an implementation strategy for research and practice sharing and dissemination, furthering the goals of this session. Follow up information on the studies and ways to engage will be disseminated through the respective initiatives' websites namely: www.habitat.org/GHRI; www.solidgroundcampaign.org and www.suelourbano.org; and www.habitat.org/TCIS.</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 1st speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Sandra Prieto (Colombia): Global Director, Operations and Financial Inclusion at Habitat for Humanity International</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 2nd speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Sara McTarnaghan (USA): Research Associate at Urban Institute</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 3rd speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Paola Siclari Bravo (Chile): Independent Consultant</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 4th speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Socorro Leite (Brazil): Director of Habitat for Humanity Brazil</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 5th speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Robin Michael Rajack: Lead Specialist – Housing and Urban Development at IDB</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 6th speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Barbara Richards Rojas: Manager of International Affairs at MINVU</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 7th speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Billy Cobbett, Director of Cities Alliance</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of any additional speakers at your event.</p>	<p>David Wluka, President of Wluka Real Estate Corporation</p>
<p>Dissemination of the outcomes of your event?</p>	<p>Public and private sector partners that may have become aware of research and implementation strategies and results will be pursued for followed-up with for collaboration opportunities. Follow up communications will take place through press releases and online messaging. Habitat for Humanity in, partnership with other organizations, also continues to develop the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub, a second tier platform supported on sectorial and national ongoing housing knowledge activities and work performed by its members. This Hub will be an implementation strategy for research and practice sharing and dissemination, furthering the goals of this session. Follow up information on the studies and ways to engage will be disseminated through the respective initiatives' websites namely: www.habitat.org/GHRI; www.solidgroundcampaign.org and www.suelourbano.org; and www.habitat.org/TCIS.</p>