



United Nations

— HABITAT III —

SIDE EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of the lead organization	The New School
City and country where the lead organization is based	New York City, NY, USA
Title of the event	Inclusive Urban Practice Beyond Habitat III
Date	10/18/2016
Room number	R17
List of partner organizations	The Global Urban Futures Project (GUF), New York City, NY, USA; The Observatory on Latin America (OLA), New York City, NY, USA
Number of attendees	More than 101
Percentage of women participating	41-50%



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Background information on the event (themes, issues, context).

The adoption of the SDGs, the COP21 agreement, and commitments coming out of the New Urban Agenda require new national and urban policies and practice. These agreements define a path for global action that heavily depends on changes in the behavior of cities and the performance of national and local governments. If the international community and national governments have begun to understand that the global and national futures are “urban”, they are nonetheless much less clear about how positive change is to go forward. Public institutions, urban professionals, and community action are overwhelmingly organized in ways which maintain strict silos in which urban planners speak to each other, but rarely to public officials responsible for urban health, planners do not speak to doctors, architects do not speak to environmentalists, and the engineers do not relate to economists. Learning from past mistakes and achievements is a possibility to inform future action. In that sense it is worth posing the question: how well have countries managed to follow through on their Habitat II commitments? What indicators and sectors showed significant improvements and which ones proved the most difficult? How can the Habitat II experience influence the adoption of new commitments at Quito in October 2016? If commitments have not been met, does it make sense to formulate similar new commitments? With this background and the growing global and national stakes in how urban plans, policies, and reforms are undertaken, the main theme of this event is the assessment of what has happened in regards to urban development over the past two decades, with the intent to highlight the need for urban and national policies to be reframed, redefined, and adapted to new circumstances.



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<p>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed</p>	<p>Lena Simet first presented the key findings of the Habitat Commitment Index (HCI), an initiative by The Global Urban Futures Project at The New School, which assessed the fulfillment of commitments made by governments at the Habitat II conference in 1996. Results showed that overall progress towards achieving urban goals has been limited, and that new commitments have to be made in quantitative and time-bound terms. In order to complement the quantitative analysis, this presentation was followed by a 15-minute panel discussion, moderated by Ana Marie Argilagos, with five Latin American experts who conducted qualitative studies on developments since Habitat II in Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and Ecuador. This conversation was devoted to the question of the possibilities for positive change in the countries that have been studied, given the progress and setbacks of the last 20 years. There was a general consensus among the authors of the lack of progress on urban goals. Eight transversal findings within the Latin American countries were discussed as follows: 1. Housing policy undermines urban policy 2. The power of private developers 3. Fragility and short-lived nature of achievements 4. Legal structures in place but little implementation 5. Artificial decentralization 6. Continuing inequality 7. Weakness of the habitat agenda The side event ended with Michael Cohen, Director of the Global Urban Futures Project, and Margarita Gutman, Co-Director of the Observatory on Latin America, introducing the next phase of the research project, which will consists of two parts: 1) the design of the HCI on a city level, and 2) an Urban Practice project.</p>
<p>Recommendations that emerged from these discussions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct the HCI at the city level • Develop an urban practice research project, which seeks to identify practices that lead to more social and spatial exclusion within cities, as well as those that manage to create a more inclusive city for all.
<p>Partnerships or collaborations that emerged from the event.</p>	<p>Partners Universidad Nacional de Autonomia de Mexico Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano, Chile Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales, Argentina FLACSO Sede Ecuador, Ecuador</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 1st speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Michael Cohen, USA, Professor of International Affairs, The New School</p>
<p>Name, nationality, title and organization of the 2nd speaker at your event.</p>	<p>Margarita Gutman, Argentina, Professor of Urban Studies & International Affairs, The New School</p>



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Name, nationality, title and organization of the 3rd speaker at your event.	Lena Simet, Germany, Coordinator - GUF, The New School
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 4th speaker at your event.	Alicia Ziccardi, Mexico, Professor/Researcher, Universidad Nacional de Autonoma de Mexico
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 5th speaker at your event.	Alfredo Rodriguez, Chile, Member, Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo Urbano
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 6th speaker at your event.	Andrea Catenazzi, Argentina, Associate Professor, Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 7th speaker at your event.	Ana Marie Argilagos, USA, Senior Adviser, The Ford Foundation
Name, nationality, title and organization of any additional speakers at your event.	Eduardo Reese, Argentina, Researcher, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales
Dissemination of the outcomes of your event?	<p>The discussion inspired future research at the city level. More importantly, the Global Urban Futures Project would like to engage scholars and practitioners alike on the question of practice and the implementation of The New Urban Agenda in cities. The comparative work done for the Habitat Commitment Index will support future follow up on the Habitat III Process. The outreach strategies are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GUF distributed the HCI Booklet, a presentation of the findings from the quantitative study. In addition, the GUF released seven policy briefs on regional, topic and country case studies. • The OLA distributed “Habitat en deuda”, a book on the qualitative studies of the 6 Latin American countries. • All reports produced in print were made available online through the GUF (www.globalurbanfutures.org) & OLA (www.observatorylatinamerica.org) website. • Active engagement through Twitter and other social media platforms before, during and after the Habitat III conference.