



United Nations

— HABITAT III —

SIDE EVENT REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of the lead organization	Centre for Urban Equity, CEPT University
City and country where the lead organization is based	Ahmedabad
Title of the event	New Urban Planning and Design for Conflict-free Urbanization
Date	10/19/2016
Room number	R5
List of partner organizations	International Development Research Council (IDRC), Canada
Number of attendees	61-80
Percentage of women participating	41-50%
Background information on the event (themes, issues, context).	<p>Urban planning and design are recognized as important tools to mitigate conflict and reduce violence in cities with high rates of homicide. In middle- and high-income contexts, adequate housing, access to basic services, and improvement of public space help mitigate and prevent everyday conflict and violence. But can they help prevent violence and conflict in contexts of high youth unemployment, organized crime, societal breakdown or ineffective law enforcement? Can they reduce everyday violence in the lives of urban poor in the developing countries? This Side Event brought together experiences of everyday crime and conflict in low-income communities and efforts to mitigate them through urban planning and design. Results from four different studies were shared: in India (Ahmedabad and Mumbai), South Africa (Cape Town), and a comparative project including Chile (Santiago), Colombia (Bogota), and Peru (Lima). Research presented in this Side Event is part of the Safe and Inclusive Cities initiative, a global research program that documents the links between urban violence, poverty, and inequalities. Jointly funded by the UK's Department for International Development and Canada's International Development Research Centre, the program supports experts from around the world to find out what works — and what doesn't — to reduce violence in urban centres</p>



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<p>Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed</p>	<p>The People, Places and Infrastructure project presented by Amita Bhide was an exploration into the “new planning practices” in Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, and Durban. The project concludes that, following Henri Lefebvre, a new space is being generated in these cities through a state-market axis that privileges the private- sector in the name of economic development. Examples of this bias include port development, slum rehabilitation, sports complexes, and roads, reflecting similar ideas and tendencies globally. Labelled “development practices,” these activities embed multiple forms of violence directed at the poor and generate habitats that are unsafe and make the poor more vulnerable. Despite its history of promoting a transformative agenda of welfare generation and conflict resolution, Darshini Mahadevia finds that, in the above-mentioned context, urban planning becomes a root cause of structural and everyday violence, particularly for the urban poor. Drawing on evidence from Ahmedabad and Guwahati in India, she shows how the absence of a welfare or developmental state and a laissez-faire approach result in elite capture of urban policies and tools. This, in turn, fosters a web of interconnected vulnerabilities and an increase in conflict, violence, and crime. While these challenges stretch across the city, the urban poor are most affected. Elections create a welcome space for conflict mitigation in these contexts as they help to democratize urban planning. In three Latin American cities – Bogota, Lima, and Santiago – Hugo Frühling and colleagues analyzed the determinants of violent crime in highly disadvantaged neighbourhoods to test the relevance to the region of interventions based on social cohesion and collective efficacy. They find that in neighbourhoods characterized by high levels of poverty and exclusion from broader society, social cohesion is limited and collective efficacy is almost non-existent. The community is practically unable to coordinate a response to security threats. Consolidation of effective long-term policies and interventions is limited due to two main factors: high rates of turnover among government and elected officials that prevent the development of long-term approaches to complex urban security issues; and, limited interaction between different levels of government that restricts capacity to design coordinated responses to violence. Research in Cape Town, South Africa, presented by Kim Bloch suggests that slum upgrading is an effective way to prevent violence. Compared with control areas, survey respondents in Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading intervention areas reported fewer experiences of violence (15% of households compared with 23%). Analysis on the potential displacement effect of crime into surrounding neighbourhoods is ongoing. The study also revealed useful insights about violence in Khayelitsha Township: it accounts for 20% of injuries and continues to be the main cause of injury in the community, and it is closely linked with alcohol consumption as 1 in 3 injuries involve reported or suspected alcohol use. As similar urban upgrading programs are rolled out, these insights will help make them more effective. The main discussion focused on urban planning as an important mechanism of intervention suggested in the New Urban Agenda and its relevance to the contexts presented by different presenters at the session. The presenters clearly stated that without redefining ‘urban planning’, the traditional ways of urban planning have created conflicts and violence in the cities studied under the program of Safe and Inclusive Cities</p>
<p>Recommendations that emerged from these discussions.</p>	<p>Each country, with the participation of the Civil Society, need to reclaim ‘urban planning’ that is inclusive and responsive to the reality. This would go hand in hand with reclaiming of the State and deepening of the democratic processes.</p>



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Partnerships or collaborations that emerged from the event.	The existing collaborations were strengthened. A collaborative proposal is being developed with the proposed moderator of the session.
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 1st speaker at your event.	Prof. Amita Bhide; Indian; Dean, School of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 2nd speaker at your event.	Prof. Darshini Mahadevia; Indian, Director, Centre for Urban Equity, CEPT University, Ahmedabad
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 3rd speaker at your event.	Hugo Frühling; Chilean; Director, Institute of Public Affairs, University of Chile
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 4th speaker at your event.	Kim Bloch; South African; Research Coordinator, University of Cape Town
Name, nationality, title and organization of the 5th speaker at your event.	Jennifer Salahub; Canadian; Senior Program Officer, International Development Research Council, Canada
Dissemination of the outcomes of your event?	Through announcement on our respective websites. We have already circulated the flyer through email networks.