



LEADING URBAN RESEARCH CENTRE'S TAKE ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA (HABITAT III) TO ACHIEVE A SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE

From: The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London

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For more than 60 years, the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU) at University College London has undertaken world-leading urban research and postgraduate teaching that helps to build the capacity of national governments, local authorities, NGOs, aid agencies and businesses working towards socially just and sustainable development in the global south.

The DPU's position on Habitat III

With the global urban population set to double by 2050, the DPU acknowledges the positive role urbanisation can play within a sustainable development framework. However, the transformative potential of urbanisation is conditional on justice and equity being deeply embedded into sustainability measures.

The DPU's contribution to the Policy Unit 7 on Urban Economic Development Strategies promotes the view that for cities to become truly for all, urban development must focus on promoting livelihoods, the creation of productive jobs and supporting the informal economy.

Through our work alongside civil society in Africa, the DPU has witnessed how evictions and issues around land grabbing were the top concerns across the continent. This calls for the protection of rights and entitlements of cities and human settlements' most vulnerable citizens. Therefore, the DPU welcomes the inclusion of the Right to the City, the recognition of the 'social and ecological function of land' and the denouncement of 'forced evictions' in the New Urban Agenda.

Nevertheless, the DPU recognises that there is still work to be done to ensure that the New Urban Agenda delivers on its intended aim to 'leave no one behind'.

The DPU is convinced that the New Urban Agenda will only be successful if local government and urban residents, particularly the most vulnerable, are given a central role in the implementation and monitoring processes.

DPU Quotes

Prof Julio Davila, DPU director: *"For 60 years the DPU has emphasised the positive role of urbanisation for development. We are now pleased that this is fully acknowledged in the New Urban Agenda. However, the transformative potential of urbanisation is conditional on justice and equity being deeply embedded into sustainability measures".*

Dr Le-Yin Zhang, a co-lead of Habitat III Policy Unit 7: *"The development of productive, sustainable and inclusive urban economies is essential to making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. For cities to become truly for all, urban*

development must focus on promoting livelihoods, the creation of productive jobs and supporting the informal economy.”

Dr Barbara Lipietz: *“Our research work across the globe has identified democratic governance at city level as an important catalyser of just and sustainable urban development”.*

DPU at Habitat III

The DPU has played a significant role in drafting of the new agenda, led the policy unit on urban economic development strategies and worked alongside urban social movements.

DPU will be represented by 11 academics in Quito, with staff members participating and contributing to 15 official events. It is estimated that more than 60 alumni will be attending who now work in high level roles in government, The UN, as well as in civil society.

Attached Documents

- DPU contribution to and assessment of the New Urban Agenda
- DPU activities at the Habitat III conference

For Media and interviews enquiries:

Alexander Macfarlane, Media and Communications Officer, Bartlett Development Planning Unit

Email: alexander.macfarlane.14@ucl.ac.uk
Mobile: +44 (0)7734 376547
Telephone: + 44 (0)20 3108 5413 ext 55413

For interviews

Prof. Julio Davila, the director of the DPU, and other leading scholars will be available for comments/interviews.

Email: j.davila@ucl.ac.uk
Mobile: +44 7753 444210 (WhatsApp only)