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The “move to cities” is one of the greatest revolutions in the history of humanity. The speed, dimension and impact of this migratory movement are enormous. Between now and 2050, the population of the world’s cities will grow by an additional two to three billion inhabitants. The opportunities and challenges of globally sustainable development meet and are concentrated in cities. The list of such challenges is long, reaching from adequate housing and quality of life for everyone to mobility, climate protection and food security, and all the way to integrating migrants and refugees, and having the right to a place you can call home – to name but a few items.

In September 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreement was reached about a pact on the world’s future. What happens in cities and municipalities over the next few years will determine whether we achieve the goals of overcoming poverty worldwide and making sustainable development for all a reality. Cities are one cause of climate change, swallowing up three quarters of all resources. Many of them are places of misery and want. But cities are also drivers of economic development, centres of innovation and cultural hubs, spearheading the transformation of society. They are key players! And that is why viable urban development is a key task for development policy.

The third global conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) in Ecuador will play an important role in setting the course for the future. The global agenda for urban development over the next 20 years will be decided in Quito. The Berlin Recommendations, the outcome of the joint deliberations at the German Habitat Forum in June, are an important contribution towards finding local answers to global challenges. I hope this brochure will provide you with interesting reading, and I would be very pleased if you, too, were to become actively involved in promoting sustainable development in your own home town.

Dr. Gerd Müller, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

The German Habitat Forum in Berlin was a milestone on the path to the UN Habitat III summit in Quito in 2016. It underscored a trend that has not always been a matter of course: in the run-up to this UN summit, the cities are being included in the negotiations. In the last few years, they have become a voice that cannot be ignored. And their commitment is having an impact.

Again and again, the cities have made it clear that the expertise, the experience, and the competence of metropolitan areas are essential to any effort to improve long-term quality of life for the global population, come up with solutions for the construction of decent housing, strengthen social cohesion in immigration societies, make a serious attempt to deal with climate change, prioritize clean energy and mobility, and capitalize on the opportunities offered by digitalization. This is the key argument made by international networks like Metropolis and Eurocities for giving the cities a stronger role on the global level. Berlin has been working towards this goal for years. That is the approach taken with the German Habitat Forum and the “Berlin Recommendations for the Cities of Tomorrow” it adopted.

As early as 2050, roughly 70% of the global population will be urban. If cities are to provide the infrastructure and public services their residents have a right to expect and that meet international standards of equitable development, a prominent role for metropolitan areas is more crucial than ever. They, in turn, need the support of their national governments. It is no exaggeration to say that the future of the planet will be decided in the cities.

With that in mind, I am delighted that Berlin and the German Habitat Forum that was held here were able to give new momentum to the debate on the future of the cities and to provide recommendations on making the New Urban Agenda an effective instrument of sustainable urban development.

My thanks go to everyone involved in making this conference a success, especially the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the German Development Institute, who co-organized this event with Berlin and helped to give the cities a more powerful voice.

Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin
By 2050, the global urban population will triple, climbing to around 7 billion people. Nearly 70% of all humans will be living in cities. Whether the global Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Paris climate agreement can be achieved will primarily be decided in cities and the course taken by the wave of urbanisation in the next three decades. If the new cities are built in the same manner as existing urban areas, global warming will significantly exceed 2 °C. New building materials are thus needed that can replace cement, steel, and aluminium. Mobility and energy systems need to be modified and made greenhouse gas neutral.

Research has also shown that human well-being isn’t solely dependent on income, access to healthcare, education, or proper nutrition. It is also dependent on urban design: public spaces, green spaces, and a built environment that promote communication and trust between people; architectural aesthetics strongly influence human well-being. The character of cities moulds the lives of their inhabitants.

To ensure that cities can develop in ways geared toward people, local actors will have to be strengthened: city governments, local administrations, and civil society have to become central actors in sustainable development in order to successfully shape the largest wave of urbanisation in human history. This is often a question of power; in centralised political systems, the task is to strengthen local participation and to, for example, give cities themselves the right to make decisions on public investments.

This wave of urbanisation offers the opportunity to offer an improved, dignified life to city dwellers. Failure to take advantage of this opportunity will have very long-term impacts, as urban infrastructure is path-dependent and extremely difficult to correct.

The Habitat III Conference in Quito is thus of paramount importance. It is a prime opportunity to set a course for a sustainable and inclusive global urban society.

Prof. Dr. Dirk Messner, Director of the German Development Institute
The German Habitat Forum took place in Berlin on 1-2 June 2016 and brought together more than 1000 attendees from 74 countries. The results of the deliberations by this wide range of stakeholders are the “Berlin Recommendations for the Cities of Tomorrow”. These recommendations are suggested as inputs for the ongoing negotiations on the New Urban Agenda, to be adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.
IN OUR VISION, CITIES:

Will be guarantors of quality of life for all
Contribute to achieving prosperity for all
Lead in attaining a sustainable and decarbonized world and
Strengthen rural-urban linkages and support food security

The New Urban Agenda is a unique opportunity for member states and local governments to partner in the creation of an action-oriented roadmap to accomplish the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Paris Agreement. The implementation of these global agreements requires manifold actions in and by cities.

The added value of the New Urban Agenda is thus to complement these agreements by instigating the corresponding national and local policies and the necessary enabling conditions for cities. The German Habitat Forum has identified the following six priority areas for action:

1. Empower cities as actors to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement
2. Initiate transformative approaches for sustainable urban development
3. Strengthen the enabling institutional, legal and financial frameworks for cities
4. Create opportunities for engagement and initiate partnerships for implementation
5. Focus the follow-up of the New Urban Agenda on policy dialogue and learning
6. Give more voice to cities in global urban governance

OUR VISION

Cities will be the guarantors of quality of life for all

Cities should be socially and spatially just and gender responsive to leave no person and no space behind. In addition to balanced land use planning and management, this requires efforts to eradicate poverty and provide access to affordable and decent housing, education, employment opportunities, a healthy environment and basic services such as energy, transport, water and sanitation, health services, and waste disposal for all. It also encompasses respect for existing human rights standards, as contained in the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which calls for an adequate standard of living, including the right to housing. Cities should counteract any form of social and spatial segregation, exclusion and discrimination, especially in but not limited to informal settlements and low-income neighborhoods.

Cities should be people-centered, inclusive, promote and achieve gender equality and allow for cultural diversity, including differences of belief and language. They should also be safe and livable for all, and encourage the integration of all into city life irrespective of their legal and economic status. To achieve this, empowered, inclusive and accountable local authorities that engage all relevant stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes are required. Give people the opportunity to act and drive change, including by providing seed funding and removing legal obstacles.

Cities should promote a sense of belonging (“Heimat”) as well as cultural diversity, as these are sources of creativity and identity. Cities should safeguard tangible and intangible cultural assets, including the assets of informal and traditional areas. Public space plays a crucial role in allowing for expressions of cultural specificity and niches for different user groups. The New Urban Agenda must emphasize place-based urban development that is rooted in and shaped by the people and communities that inhabit cities.

Cities are challenged to accommodate an increasing number of migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees. They deserve a dignified reception and decent life in their host communities with a perspective for the future beyond basic needs, including residence-based rights. This requires sustained dialogues and engagement between host communities and newcomers, as well as modular and flexible approaches, for example in zoning plans and scenario planning.

Local innovators and champions work to address the gender differences present in all urban issues, from climate change to urban planning, from safety to governance and offering strategies and good practices to build upon. Women need to be further empowered as actors for sustainable urban development by fostering their participation in policy, planning and budgeting; government accountability to women and the availability of critical knowledge and information to address women’s needs. The New Urban Agenda has the potential to set new ambitious global standards for women and girls – in all their diversity – and promote their active participation in all phases of urban development and governance processes.
Cities will contribute to achieving prosperity for all

Well-run cities are the engines of economic growth and development. Cities should ensure that economic growth is both socially and ecologically sustainable and benefits all, and support sustainable consumption and production, circular and shared economies and resource efficiency. This necessitates adequate working conditions and sustainable supply chains, as well as adequate local financial services. Moreover, the informal sector provides indispensable income opportunities for urban inhabitants in many cities. Urban policies and measures that improve conditions for both the formal and informal sector are thus needed to ensure income and social security.

Technology and innovation should be made critical drivers of urban transformation in sectors such as energy, water and sanitation, transport, and buildings. Innovation in these fields includes, but goes beyond information and communications technology and the use of renewable energy. Cities should cooperate with researchers, the private sector and citizens to foster and harness technological and social innovation and behavioral change. They should also promote green technologies through green public procurement and improved conditions, especially for small and medium-sized companies. “Smart City” is not a goal in itself, but an instrument towards sustainable and inclusive urban development. Thus, digital solutions should benefit public interests.

Cities will lead in attaining a sustainable and decarbonized world

Climate change represents a particularly pressing threat to cities in developed and developing countries, especially in vulnerable and risk-prone informal and low-income settlements and in coastal areas. Low-carbon and resilient urban development, including anticipatory disaster risk management is critical for sustainable development. Both climate change adaptation and mitigation must be addressed and mainstreamed in planning processes and policies. This includes transport and mobility, water, waste, energy, building and housing, industry, and land-use policies.

It is essential to preserve, strengthen and recover urban ecosystems, water bodies and green areas in and around cities, which function as natural carbon sinks and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Satisfying the housing and infrastructure requirements of the coming decades using existing construction materials and technologies would surpass planetary boundaries. A fundamental change in architecture, construction and the development and (re)use of building materials is needed. In particular, energy and resource efficiency needs to be fostered and CO₂ intensive building materials replaced.

Cities and national governments should develop sustainable urban mobility policies that provide for universal, gender responsive access to safe, clean and affordable transport for all. The transformation and decarbonization of urban transport systems will be achieved through optimized modal mixes in urban mobility networks and compact and mixed-use urban patterns that encourage eco-mobility, including biking, walking, shared and e-mobility and public transport. Eco-mobility is essential for the quality of life, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, achieving social equality, improving air quality and public health, and strengthening the local economy.

Cities will strengthen rural-urban linkages and support food security

Cities face complex challenges and are increasingly linked with peri-urban and rural areas. This necessitates an integrated urban and territorial development approach that reflects the multiple reciprocal flows between rural and urban areas, and fosters cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation among cities and towns within and across territories. That also means fostering development in cities and rural areas alike.

Strengthening rural-urban linkages is crucial to support food security, rural development and the equitable distribution of resources. Food and agriculture, especially smallholder farming, have to be included as key elements in integrated territorial development strategies. Land speculation processes should be regulated to avoid detrimental impacts on agricultural production, ecosystems and recreational areas. Efficient and reliable supply and value chains must be reinforced and food losses and waste minimized.

SIX PRIORITY AREAS FOR ACTION

1. Empower cities as actors to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement

Global transformation towards sustainability will succeed or fail in cities. The New Urban Agenda should recognize their threefold role in sustainable development. Cities are spaces where a wide range of actors jointly shape, co-create and negotiate the cities of tomorrow. Cities are places where actions for – or against - sustainable and inclusive development materialize. Cities are actors, critical for local, national and global governance for sustainable development and global partnerships.

Cities are not only local but also global actors. They are fundamental for sustainable development and the safeguarding of global common goods, such as ecosystems, climate, economic prosperity, social integration, democratization and political stability. This understanding of the role of
cities calls for a redesign of policy responses and for truly transformative actions that change the way we use, build and govern our cities.

2. **Initiate transformative approaches for sustainable urban development**

The choices cities make today will create path dependencies for decades to come. Sustainable urban development thus requires transformative action that promotes fundamental structural, organizational and behavioral changes. Thus, the New Urban Agenda needs to motivate local and national governments to engage in a deliberative process that leads to ambitious, locally appropriate, coherent and long-term policies and actions. The New Urban Agenda must further encourage bottom-up initiatives and capitalize on the innovation potential of civil society.

Priority has to be given to policy options and programmatic approaches with the strongest leverage on local, national and global urban systems. Such transformative actions should

- leave no person and no space behind,
- achieve social cohesion,
- be low carbon and resilient,
- engage with informality,
- promote equitable economic growth,
- promote sustainable production and consumption,
- support healthy environments and lifestyles.

Transformative urban governance requires evidence-based policies. The capacities of local governments to collect, analyse, evaluate and use local data therefore need to be strengthened and embedded in open data and open government policies. Such evidence-based policymaking should build on collaboration between local authorities and urban practitioners and researchers. We need to move beyond participation to co-production.

3. **Strengthen the enabling institutional, legal and financial frameworks for cities**

The diversity of political arrangements in countries requires enabling frameworks that are tailored to local contexts. They
should support effective mechanisms based on the principle of subsidiarity, which involves the allocation of responsibilities to the level that is closest to citizens and the empowerment of local actors. It simultaneously calls upon local actors to assume responsibility and act for the common local, national and global good.

The implementation of the New Urban Agenda necessitates sufficient capacities at all levels of government, especially local governments. The New Urban Agenda should therefore encourage domestically designed capacity development programs, supported by international peer learning networks and development agencies where appropriate.

Cities need reliable revenues from various sources along with adequate financial management capacities to access and spend funds from public and private sources (including debt financing) in an effective, efficient, sustainable, development- and citizen-oriented way. Adequate and predictable revenues need to be generated through domestic resource mobilization and fiscal decentralization including national transfers that match the functions and mandates of local governments. Direct access to global financing mechanisms needs to be improved. The New Urban Agenda should also encourage multilateral and national development banks to establish strong urban investment programs.

As city boundaries become increasingly blurred, governance structures and urban development strategies need to reflect the functional urban territory. The New Urban Agenda has to recognize cities as complex actors, not just as municipalities or demarcated urban zones.

4. Create opportunities for engagement and initiate partnerships for implementation

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are critical drivers of urban transformation and are necessary to implement all elements of the New Urban Agenda. They can harness the expertise, technology and financial resources of a wide range of actors for sustainable urban development. A new partnership paradigm is a prerequisite for exploring and finding innovative, disruptive and unusual urban solutions.

The New Urban Agenda should motivate voluntary commitments to support implementation and provide criteria to ensure their transparency and accountability. Interested parties should be invited to design and launch “global urban partnership initiatives”. Such global urban partnerships should address those issues that are most critical to the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda, such as national urban policies, urban finance, integrated urban management, and capacity development.

Sustainable urban development necessitates a multi-level, participatory and collaborative approach during all phases of the planning and decision-making processes. We need a new understanding of stakeholder engagement that recognizes all urban inhabitants, both formal and informal, as co-planners and co-creators to achieve sustainable development. The New Urban Agenda should outline guidelines to promote, strengthen and institutionalize active citizenship, participatory planning and decision-making, as well as responsive and accountable urban management as the backbone of good governance.

5. Focus the follow-up of the New Urban Agenda on policy dialogue and learning

A strong follow-up and review process for the New Urban Agenda is essential to maintain commitment and engagement over time and to take corrective actions. The follow-up and review process has a threefold purpose. Firstly, to monitor the implementation of the urban dimension of the SDGs based on the existing SDG indicators. Secondly, to assess progress towards transformative change, using qualitative and quantitative information from multiple sources. Qualitative information should integrate the voices and information generated by city dwellers. Thirdly, it should assess the improvement of enabling conditions for cities. This requires consideration of assessments and feedback by local governments.

The follow-up and review process should create opportunities for inclusive dialogues that facilitate rapid learning by decision-makers and urban practitioners. It should build on existing platforms and fora where they exist, and establish new ones where necessary.

6. Give more voice to cities in global urban governance

The transformative potential of cities for safeguarding global public goods should be harnessed through an enhanced involvement of local governments and urban stakeholders in global urban governance. They should have a specific role in the design, implementation and follow-up of international policies on sustainable urban development.

Habitat III will be the starting point for constructive discussions on the institutional architecture for global urban governance to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Enhanced engagement by and interagency coordination within the UN system will also be essential to support the coordinated and coherent implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This is a longer-term discussion that must also reflect on the future role of UN-Habitat.
Every day, 1.2 million people move to urban areas. Ensuring that these new inhabitants have liveable urban environments presents tremendous challenges. Our actions should put people at the centre and ensure liveable, people-friendly cities, said Gerd Müller, while strengthening links with rural hinterlands.

Creating people-friendly cities requires a sustained commitment to shared learning, partnerships, and citizen participation. Global and local challenges can only be met if citizens recognize our shared responsibility. Often, citizens are interested and willing, but they lack the appropriate technical and political support; by providing support, we can encourage more citizens to take action. Michael Müller pointed out that while there is no silver bullet to address the challenges faced by cities, we can work towards solutions by engaging in an open discussion that explores different options and exchanges ideas with different actors.

Moreover, transformative change in all areas needs to be leveraged to achieve sustainable urban development. Joan Clos pointed out that the immense growth in urban populations in the coming decades will lead to new and unprecedented challenges and opportunities. Thus, as Dirk Messner warned, we must reconsider how we design and construct cities: if we keep building the same type of cities, we will exceed planetary boundaries.

Cities will also be affected by changes in the economy. Jeffery Sachs and Charles Landry highlighted the potential of new economic approaches, such as the sharing economy. These developments should be leveraged in a way that respects people’s needs and requirements. Such approaches could also significantly transform urban mobility. Most private vehicles spend far more time in the parking lot than on the road, and when in use they are usually occupied by just one person. By using smart approaches, we can mobilize this unused capacity, increase urban mobility, reduce congestion, and reduce the overall number of vehicles in urban areas. The increasing use of electric vehicles, smart grid technology, and digitalization could also transform urban areas.

Thomas Honeck emphasized that many urban innovations have informal – and sometimes illegal – roots. Run-down industrial sites and other disused urban spaces may be appropriated by the creative industry, cultural venues, and urban gardens. While such initiatives may at first appear irritating, engaging with and supporting them is often rewarding and can lead to new solutions.

Cities also need appropriate financing to be able to leverage innovation and the transformative potential of urban development. However, only a few cities can access international financial markets, and many cities struggle with implementing effective municipal finance systems. Cities and governments have a lot of work to do to improve this situation and mobilize the necessary financing.
Statements:
Michael Müller, City of Berlin, Germany
Gerd Müller, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
Joan Clos, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Dirk Messner, German Development Institute (DIE),
German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU)
Jeffrey Sachs, Earth Institute at Columbia University,
UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
Charles Landry, Comedia
Thomas Honeck, Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS)
(from the audience)

Panelists:
Waisu Anifowoshe, Ministry of Physical Planning and
Urban Development for the State of Lagos, Nigeria
Teresa Coady, B+H BuntingCoady
Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, World Bank Group
Tom Kirschbaum, Ally App
Rose Molokoane, Slum Dwellers International (SDI),
South African Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDEUP)
Aromar Revi, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)
Daviz Mbepo Simango, City of Beira, Angola
Werner Spec, City of Ludwigsburg, Germany

Moderator: Melinda Crane
Transformation

Long-term, transformative and systemic changes are needed to achieve sustainable urban development. New path dependencies need to be considered carefully – for example, the ways in which cities are built and the transport systems that are put in place must meet the needs of both the present and the future. Achieving positive sustainable urban development requires a change in mind-sets with respect to urban planning and decision-making – these processes need to be participatory, integrated, evidence-based and innovative to allow for people-centred cities that give all urban inhabitants a perspective for the future.
The fate of the Great Transformation will depend substantially on the decisions taken in cities over the next few years and decades. There is a need for a paradigm shift away from incremental approaches that are essentially driven by short-term interests, towards transformative systemic changes following a long-term strategy to create cities which sustainably ensure a good quality of life for all their citizens. To achieve this, it is necessary to take advantage of the high diversity within urban centers and thereby unlock the given potential of their civil societies. In its latest report „Humanity on the move: Unlocking the transformative power of cities“ (2016), the WBGU identifies a number of such prerequisites for the transformation capability of urban societies (selection).

Cities should be recognized and strengthened as key arenas of the transformation:

Whether or not we will adhere to the Paris Agreement and keep global warming below 2 °C will be decided in cities. Moreover, in many instances, such as urban air quality, integrative solutions can be found at the city level which use synergies between local development and global challenges. One necessity is therefore to give cities sufficient local decision-making authority and adequate funding to enable them as players in international cooperation.

Cities should assume responsibility for their own transformation pathways:

By formulating individual decarbonization pathways, cities should take on responsibility both locally and globally for the Great Transformation towards sustainability. Through this they become individual ‘real-world laboratories’, for which there are no universally applicable blueprints.

Cities need inclusive growth and socio-economic disparities must be reduced: Climate action and poverty reduction go hand in hand. A key condition for the ability of cities to transform is thus the reduction of socio-economic disparities that have a negative impact on social cohesion, stability and security in urban societies.

Governments should foster polycentric urbanization:

If spatial development concentrates on a small number of central locations, social disparities are often exacerbated. A polycentric approach to urbanization may alleviate the pressure on cities’ peripheries and centers. It may thereby aid the protection of regional diversity and give rise to the opportunity of establishing a decentralized energy system. Polycentric structures will also be facilitated by progressing digitalization. The course has been set with the adoption of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement of 2015. Habitat III offers now an opportunity to make further progress with this global consensus and to operationalize it at city level.

This text was taken from the WBGU flagship report 2016 “Humanity on the move: Unlocking the transformative power of cities”.
UNLOCKING THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWERS OF CITIES

When considering the transformative potential of cities, we must first look at the current pace and scale of urban development. Sixty percent of the global building stock needed by 2030 is yet to be built, said Ani Dasgupta, which will require vast amounts of new construction material. An estimated 850 million people currently live in informal settlements, which are estimated to grow to 1. to 2 billion people by 2050. Choices today will create path dependencies for decades to come, locking in patterns of development, social structures, and environmental impacts. However, this is also a window of opportunity: action is required now, and the New Urban Agenda could inspire a much needed positive shift in thinking.

To create more liveable cities, we need to put humans at the centre of action. We need to develop diverse neighbourhoods that help people unleash their social and cultural potential, said Friedrich Kitschelt. Cities will not only be hubs of economic growth, but also of development. The biggest obstacle is social segregation, which has many causes. For example, in many cities a large segment of the population lacks access to reliable transportation, which means they have less access to economic opportunities and participate less in political and cultural activities. Building dense and multi-use urban patterns can improve mobility; however, modes of transportation will also have to change. Car-focused mobility concepts, by contrast, imply less space for pedestrians and cyclists, shops and urban functions, and thus create chaotic and dangerous environments – a trend which has to be turned around, as Ani Dasgupta emphasized.

An equitable city requires more than jobs. True participation and inclusion means citizens are able to work together as equals. Culture provides the foundation for people to connect to their environment and take action according to their own understanding and needs. For example, the concept of Eigenart – as described in the recent report on the transformative power of cities by the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) – is the unmistakable individual manifestation of the physical and cultural urban living environment, said Hans-Joachim Schnellhuber. The pathway towards more sustainable cities should follow a paradigm of polycentric development, in which multiple cities are equally attractive, instead of focusing on a few top cities. Once the individual character of a city and its citizens is better understood, we can develop distinct approaches for each city that trigger a global transformation towards sustainable urban development.

This transformation should happen on many levels and address a broad range of issues. The WBGU report suggests focusing on decarbonization, energy and climate change, mobility and transportation, and urban form. Whatever the focus, even modest simple or traditional technologies can have huge impacts on cities. Yet, this knowledge is not always available, so we should focus on sharing knowledge and technology. Since sustainable urban development is far too complex to tackle all of its aspects at once, we must set priorities. The challenge is reducing the complexity of the issue enough to develop a tangible set of actions, without leaving out anything important.
But there is a real danger of focusing too much on technical solutions and overlooking the political dimensions of urban development. This can be understood by looking at the nexus of transport, estate development and political power. For example, our predominant type of real estate development leads to certain types of transportation, which are often unsustainable. Real estate development models are the main driver of urban development, but the relationship between real estate and political power is not well understood. From a political perspective, it is important to make it possible to build a political career based on sustainable mobility, instead of relying on large and unchecked infrastructure projects and sprawling urban expansion, as it was often done in the past.

The New Urban Agenda will need to take all these points into account. It will have to put cities in the position to own and shape their development, ensure sustainability, build a consensus for equality, and prioritize actions accordingly. An energy transition, a mobility transition and a land-use regulation transformation are required to allow cities to better influence regional infrastructure. This is a huge task, one that can only be achieved if it is a charter for cities, that is driven by cities, and owned by cities.

**Statements:**
Friedrich Kitschelt, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
Hans-Joachim Schellnhuber, German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU), Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
Aniruddah (Ani) Dasgupta, Ross Center for Sustainable Cities of the World Resources Institute

**Panelists:**
Purnomo Chandra, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations
Edgar Pieterse, African Centre for Cities

**Moderator:** Melinda Crane
LIVEABLE CITIES FOR PEOPLE

Workshop Conveners:

Panelists:  
Rüdiger Ahrend, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  
Monique Ayi Epse Nkamgna, City of Ndjeng, Cameroon; REFELA Women Bureau of Cameroon  
Wilfredo Prilles, City of Naga, Philippines  
Ashok Sridharan, City of Bonn, Germany  
Mircea Steriu, The International Association of Public Transport (UITP)  
Moderator: Hilmar von Lojewski, Association of German Cities

SUMMARY

What are the characteristics, factors, and instruments that make a city liveable? Rapid urbanization at a global scale poses manifold challenges for liveable cities, including spatial and social inequalities, unemployment, demographic changes, and inadequate housing, as well as climate change, pollution, or loss of biodiversity. Making cities liveable is not an easy task given that the concept of “liveable” varies widely across regions and cultures. Therefore, participation is key. In addition to developing instruments and institutional structures, it is also important to create a culture of participation.

To make a city liveable, the “hardware” of basic technical services, such as sewage, electricity, green and public spaces, schools, bus stops, and hospitals is required. However, key aspects of liveability go far beyond the provision of technical infrastructure. To create equitable urban areas for all inhabitants, including the most vulnerable and marginalized, they must encompass integration, identity, religious freedom, health, safety, and multi-modal mobility, under the umbrella of good governance and participation. Nowadays, cities are often built for cars, not for people. We must therefore shift investments into integrated approaches that support better living conditions in cities and to divert car-focused infrastructure towards inclusive mobility. Non-motorized and public transportation needs to become a real alternative to cars in cities worldwide, especially in areas suffering severely from pollution. Moreover, efficient and reliable public transportation in cities creates value for citizens, businesses, and public authorities that far exceeds the costs of its provision.

In order to enable evidence-based decision-making that benefits all inhabitants, we must have a reliable set of data reflecting local conditions. It is becoming increasingly important to measure “soft factors” of liveability in urban areas. We must therefore dramatically improve capacities at the local level to gather, assess, and use geographically disaggregated data.

As city boundaries become increasingly blurred, governance structures and urban development strategies need to reflect the functional urban territory. The concept of a city by itself does not reflect urban reality in many places. As studies by OECD show, regional governance structures have a positive effect on liveability, transportation, and the environmental sustainability of urban areas, contributing to well-balanced, inclusive, and equitable development within and across territories.

Key messages

→ Key aspects for liveability in cities go beyond the provision of technical basic services and infrastructure; to create equitable urban areas for all inhabitants, including the most vulnerable and marginalized, they must encompass integration, identity, health, safety, and multi-modal mobility, under the umbrella of good governance and participation.

→ Investments need to be directed towards integrated approaches to improve living conditions in cities and diverted from car-related infrastructure towards inclusive mobility.

→ Capacity for gathering local data, including perception data, needs to be improved to enable evidence-based decision-making. As city boundaries become increasingly blurred, governance structures and urban development strategies need to reflect the functional urban territory.
REFUGEES AND MIGRATION IN AN URBAN CONTEXT

Workshop Conveners:

Panelists
Nesreen Berwari, University of Dohuk, Irak
Joan Clos, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Daniel Kerber, morethanshelters
Elham Pourazar, Norwegian Refugee Council
Jan Pörksen, City of Hamburg, Germany

Moderator: Einhard Schmidt-Kallert, Technical University Dortmund

SUMMARY

We need national approaches that focus on refugees and migrants and not only look through the lens of humanitarian response versus development policy and action.

We need clarity on whether we are talking about refugees or migrants. There are crucial legal issues that differentiate between these two groups. But we should treat people equally, whichever category they are in. Boundaries between “voluntary migrants” and refugees are blurred. Migrants pose a new set of global challenges, and the reasons people move differ widely: war, man-made disasters, economic demands, and other complex reasons.

We need to focus on the most basic needs. However, after a few months, having a fifth of a tent, 2000 calories a day, and water is not enough; it does not provide hope for the future. We need to establish an environment in which migrants can become part of society and culture through jobs and integration.

We need integrated urban planning tools. From the beginning, we should look for spatial solutions to needs and focus on modular forms. We should develop mixed population zones in which newcomers can meet and develop their own ideas. These zones should be places for innovation, where newcomers can use their skills and be productive. We need special regulations at the federal level to establish faster procedures for building shelters.

Refugees should be received with dignity. Every person excluded from society represents a lost opportunity. To retain their dignity, refugees must be able to actively participate in their new countries. Refugee reception is very emergency-oriented, but instead we should focus on integration (skills development, language training, jobs, and apprenticeship opportunities) from Day 1 to achieve dignified outcomes. These needs should be translated into space, by using spatial planning tools.

We should develop new networks of cooperation. For example, in Tempelhof, five different parts of the local government, three districts around the compounds, and three NGOs are working closely together. The list of stakeholders was so diverse and overwhelming that the first two months were devoted to organizing and reorganizing the management structure. But today the situation is better. The private sector can be an important driver, but they bring their own interests to the table.

A decentralized approach allows cities to enter into crisis mode and make decisions faster. Newcomers should know what to expect. We should establish a two-way dialogue from the beginning.

Key messages

→ Apply spatial solutions, such as modular and flexible approaches to zoning plans and scenario planning.

→ Refugees should be received with dignity and given hope for the future, beyond meeting their basic needs.

→ Encourage and facilitate dialogues at all levels between host communities and incoming groups and build alliances between local actors.
INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Panelists:
Somsook Boonyabancha, Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR)
Ursula Eid, formerly Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
Jakob Frommer, City of Würzburg, Germany
Roland Hunziker, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
Jens Libbe, Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik (Difu) gGmbH
Andreas Proksch, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Wicaksono Sarosa, Kemitraan-Habitat, Indonesia
Moderator: Stefan Bauer-Wolf, ÖAR Regionalberatung GmbH

SUMMARY

Integrated urban development implies the integration of approaches across sectors, levels of government, spaces as well as different actors. Since integrated planning instruments and cross-sectorial solutions are vital for the transformation towards sustainable and liveable cities, local governments need integrated political and organizational arrangements that allow cooperation and coordination across mandates and administrative boundaries. This also holds true for sustainable development across municipal boundaries for integrating peri-urban and rural areas into urban planning. For example, urban land use planning should be integrated with agricultural policies, waste management and protection of watersheds in urban surroundings to improve food security at a city-region scale. Such an integrated approach enables not only the efficient use of resources and mitigation of trade-offs between different fields of action, but also helps to implement the Agenda 2030 in a more effective way by acknowledging the strong interdependencies between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To achieve integration, we need an urban planning culture based on participation. Multi-stakeholder involvement should seek to transform the relationships between national and local governments, as well as between governments, the private sector, and civil society. Citizens should not be perceived merely as clients and businesses merely as investors; instead, they should be involved when developing a common vision for sustainable development and early in the planning phase.

Integrated approaches range from applying an urban nexus perspective for cross-sectorial solutions for greater water, energy and food security in urban development, through participatory budgeting for increased decision power in communities, to interdisciplinary capacity development formats and cross-municipal monitoring systems. Good practices in cities around the world demonstrate how such instruments, policies and incentives can be applied successfully and serve as a valuable reference for implementing the New Urban Agenda.

Key messages

→ The New Urban Agenda should aspire to change the mind-set, creating a common culture of integrated thinking and planning, and providing a common understanding of the concept.

→ Integrated urban development requires legal, political, and institutional frameworks that allow for and actively incentivize collaboration across sectors and administrative boundaries, and enable mutual learning.

→ All stakeholders, including business actors, need to engage in all parts of the planning process, creating a common vision to achieve integrated urban development. The New Urban Agenda needs to provide new means of engagement and define new forms of partnership.
Workshop Convener:

Daniela Chacón, City of Quito, Ecuador
Sylvie Lemmet, Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, France
Herman Pienaar, City of Johannesburg, South Africa
Vera Rodenhoff, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB); Germany
Karsten Sach, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB); Germany
Andreas Signorelli, Metropolitan Region of Santiago de Chile, Chile
Jan Zeitler, City of Horb am Neckar, Germany
Shu Zhu, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

Moderator:
Minu Hemmati, CatalySD

Panelists:

Panelists:

Summary

In the breakthrough Paris agreement, cities were formally recognized as important actors in climate change; now they need to be adequately empowered and equipped for successful local climate action and move away from being major polluters. Building upon the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the SDGs (especially SDG 11), this is where Quito comes into play: through empowering frameworks, capacity building, adequate finances, and vertical and horizontal integration.

Examples from around the globe illustrate how such an approach can be implemented. The German National Climate Initiative, for example, has supported over 19,000 local climate action projects with more than 555 million € since 2008, leveraging additional 1.3 billion € in private sector investments. To understand local climate action in China, look to the centralized national level, but also to the supportive role bilateral cooperation and city networks can play. In Ecuador, Quito, a full revitalization of public spaces and neighbourhoods is planned, to foster liveability. In Chilean cities, the fight for sustainability and against inequality happens in cities, neighbourhoods, and housing, with the help of small-scale urban “laboratories”; while in China, entire cities are positioned as pilots.

Climate change is a challenge for national and local governments to address, but it reaches beyond them: COP21 was not only about member states, but also about a movement of initiatives that needs to continue. Support comes from the bottom-up: Initiatives such as the Compact of Mayors, the Covenant of Mayors, or Mobilize Your City are relevant for Habitat III and help to meet cities' needs at each level. A formalized, localized developmental approach is helpful, as are the institutional alignment of plans and meaningful, multi-level cooperation and dialogue. We should open the debates to the public and foster intra- and inter-governmental dialogues, such as through national urban policy commissions, of which civil society organizations and local and national governments are part. We need to learn from each other by fostering the dialogue between cities to develop capacities.

Key messages

→ Addressing climate change (mitigation and adaptation) is integral to creating liveable cities (e.g., through integrated planning that includes all actors, women and men, young and old, with special relevance in energy, building, and transportation). We must also take into account human rights and biodiversity.

→ Cities are the main polluters and therefore hold responsibility. However, they can be at the heart of solutions, if empowered and adequately equipped, by building upon the political successes in 2015 (AAAA, SDGs, Paris) – and go beyond them (e.g., circular metabolism, life-cycle production).

→ Transformation at the city level requires substantial changes on the local and national levels – and their cooperation via institutionalized, meaningful dialogue (e.g., through urban policy commissions).
Mitigating Climate Change Through Sustainable Urban Mobility

Workshop Conveners:

Panelists:
Marcelo Cabrera, City of Cuenca, Ecuador
Pex Langenberg, City of Rotterdam, Netherlands
Mohlago Flora Mokgohloa, City of Johannesburg, South Africa
Luis A. Revilla Herrero, City of La Paz, Colombia
Juan Martin Salazar, City of Medellin, Colombia
Sheila Watson, FIA Foundation

Moderator: Monika Zimmermann, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

Summary

The transportation sector accounts for 23 percent of total energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, of which 74 percent are related to road transportation. It is among the fastest developing sectors with an annual growth rate of 2 percent between 1990 and 2012. In addition, the urban population is increasingly mobile, while urbanization leads to greater distances travelled and higher levels of motorization. To prevent further negative impacts on climate mitigation efforts, future urbanization should give priority to eco-mobility – walking, cycling, public transportation, and shared mobility solutions – and these means of transportation need to be integrated and aligned.

To this end, more resources need to be made available to local governments, such as conditional transfers earmarked for climate action and citizen climate education, which could make climate change a top priority in all budget planning. As the case of Johannesburg demonstrates, eco-mobility can lead to infrastructural change, operational changes, and behavioural changes.

To effectively implement eco-mobility solutions, transportation and mobility should decentralize decision-making issues, where local politicians decide on policies, such as the environmental zones applied in Rotterdam. Corridors of freedom to test solutions can improve and expand the provision of quality public transportation and the use of non-motorized transportation, as demonstrated by the example of Johannesburg.

Besides better air quality and the other climate-related co-benefits of ecomobility, a sound transportation system is critical to achieving social equality and delivering economic benefits. Ecomobility solutions can help to shift cities away from urban sprawl and towards compact cities, and reintegrate entire areas and neighbourhoods into the urban fabric. Additionally, well-connected areas create new job opportunities.

Key messages

→ The New Urban Agenda should demand mobility policies that replace automobile-centred cities with people-friendly cities by giving priority to walking, cycling, public transportation, and shared mobility, namely ecomobility.

→ Local and regional governments are key actors to provide and maintain ecomobility infrastructure and services. Fulfilling this mandate requires enabling national and international strategies, policies, frameworks, incentive schemes, finances, responsibilities, and capacities.

→ Sustainable urban transportation which is safe, clean, fair and green has multiple benefits, such as mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, achieving social equality, improving air quality and public health, and strengthening the local economy.
INNOVATIONS IN URBAN MOBILITY

Workshop Convener:

Keynotes:
Sebastian Schlebusch, Nextbike
Jagan Shah, National Institute of Urban Affairs, India

Panelists:
Steven Dale, Creative Urban Projects
Isabel Flores, Ally App
Dario Hidalgo, World Resources Institute (WRI)
Clarence Rupingena, City of Windhoek, South Africa

Moderator: Cornie Huizenga, Sustainable Low Carbon Transport Partnership (SLoCaT)

SUMMARY

Innovation comprises not only technological solutions, but also includes innovation in management, policies, and transportation services. For example, mobility apps gather better data for planning and decision-making, smart urban freight solutions reduce empty miles, cable cars provide better access to remote urban districts, and electric modes of public and private transportation help decarbonize the transportation sector. Political commitments – such as allocating a percentage of all road construction funds to encouraging walking and cycling, congestion charges, ultra-low emission zones or regulatory reforms, street design guidelines, civic participation, and capacity-building approaches – should also be considered as urban mobility innovations. Innovative approaches and solutions have a wide range of co-benefits that are often neglected in policy-making, such as better inclusion and equitable access to mobility, better air quality, lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and congestion, and improved urban livelihoods.

The participatory process of urban mobility innovation can lead to creative out-of-the-box solutions targeting a wide set of urban challenges. To make room for creativity, cities should think about how to overcome barriers to innovation in administration and decision-making processes, such as by convening different stakeholders to jointly discuss challenges and solutions. This will help overcome barriers in the minds of planners and decision-makers, who often focus on particular technical solutions. However, the political will for innovation is not always there. Innovation in urban mobility can thrive when new partnerships of experts, businesses, civil society, and decision-makers jointly advocate for integrated and innovative solutions to transportation challenges in urban areas.

On the other hand, innovation is ongoing and often new ideas emerge in response to inadequate mobility. This often leads to controversies, such as those around the start of Uber in many cities. Governments need to understand the potential and limitations of certain innovations in order to act wisely. Otherwise, they cannot guarantee that transportation will be inclusive and meets overarching policy objectives. Governments should also take an active role in promoting Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as the backbone for many mobility innovations, leveraging the high potential of an increasingly connected society. National governments can help greatly, such as by providing a proportion of capital investment or supporting project preparation and capacity-building.

Key messages

→ Innovation in urban mobility includes, but goes beyond, ICT and the use of renewable energy. It includes smart policies, management, and planning and decision-making processes that favour equitable access to walking, cycling, and public transportation. Innovation helps improve decision-making and planning through open data, better information, and increased transparency.

→ Innovation in urban mobility arises from seeking solutions to particular urban challenges and often happens in a participatory fashion. Creating room for innovation, as well as identifying, evaluating, and implementing solutions requires understanding the potential and limitations of innovative solutions in specific contexts.

→ To foster innovative urban mobility solutions, policymakers and financing mechanisms should consider the wider co-benefits of improved social inclusion, better air quality, lower GHG emissions, less congestion, and more attractive urban livelihoods.
Enabling Conditions for Cities

The commitments outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement cannot be met without changing the way cities are managed and providing the enabling conditions that allow cities to take action. Cities will have to ensure that no person and no space are left behind. Crucially, this requires integrated approaches. Cities should not be managed as islands, but are embedded in and linked to other territories, rural areas, and small towns. Better data is also needed: planning and management should be demand-driven and based on reliable data. Sound financial management and reliable revenues - including national transfers, own revenues, private investment and debt financing – are further critical elements.
THE NEW URBAN AGENDA: THE ROLE OF CITIES AND REGIONS IN DELIVERING AGENDA 2030
William Cobbett, Director, Cities Alliance

Let me begin by expressing the hope that the New Urban Agenda triggers a new paradigm in the way in which cities are developed. To achieve the promise captured in the decisions taken in 2015 – and particularly in New York and in Paris – we will need to see a revolution in both production and consumption, the scale and extent of which has barely been understood.

In my view, therefore, the primary function of the New Urban Agenda will to be galvanise and unleash regional and city governments, of all sizes, to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. There is a whole army of sub-national troops that national governments need to deploy, and, indeed, to empower – for innovation, new thinking and new behaviour.

The technicalities of the challenge are not difficult: we have the skills, experience, resources and the technical knowledge – this is primarily a political challenge, requiring leadership.

How will conditions for this new paradigm be created?
Let me suggest four ways:

1. **Transform the relationship between national, regional and city governments.**

   What is currently missing from this relationship is clarity: who does what? With what resources? With which powers, resources and functions?

   Fundamentally, this will require collaboration within government, and between different tiers of government. The mindset that most urgently needs to change is one which regards subnational government in general – and local government in particular – as a lower or inferior level of government, sometimes little more than a mere administrative arm of a higher tier of government. Rather, regional and city governments must form part of integrated and joined-up government.

   This process of clarifying roles also allows for and promotes experimentation and innovation, which will result in both successes and failure. Not every city is going to respond in the same way to a common set of challenges – this should be regarded as positive, and not negative.

2. **Transform the relationship between cities and citizens.**

   City administrations of all sizes need to focus their attention on the entire city, and on all citizens: too many administrations focus only on some parts of the city, and on providing services to elites and the politically connected. By citizens I mean public and private, individual and corporate, as well as formal and informal citizens. We cannot allow city governments to hand-pick who they are servicing.

   A priority will be to urgently arrest the growing inequality evident in cities through new policies and practices that are more favourable to the urban poor, and to women.

   We need to understand: every person or organisation that is excluded is both energy and an opportunity lost.

   I believe an essential requirement for transformation will be the willingness of all governments to commit to Open Data and Open Government.

3. **Professionalise City Administrations**

   Cities should be run as enterprises with strong political leadership supported by the best professional skills that can be obtained. This can maybe be best explained by asking the following questions: Who will run our cities? How can a career in local public service become a real opportunity for professionals and graduates? To address this long-term question, we also need to ask: Are universities teaching the skills that will be needed to most effectively run our cities? Are the Professions making their most valuable contribution?

4. **The role of development partners.**

   Finally, we need new thinking and behaviour by development partners. In the first instance, it is essential that we move beyond multi-lateral and bilateral agencies to also include the private sectors, universities and knowledge institutions, cities themselves and national and international non-governmental organisations.

   All development partners need to move away from short-term, project-based approaches to become longer-term, programmatic and more reliable partners, offering consistent support over time, and not chasing the latest short-term developmental fashion.

   This also applies to the United Nations – implementing the New Urban Agenda will require a joined-up, collaborative UN system-wide approach.
The Big Picture – Integrated Approaches

An integrated approach to urban development starts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As Klaus Töpfer remarked, the 17 goals should be implemented in an integrated and coherent manner. Cities are at the very centre: achieving most of the SDGs will require concerted efforts in cities. Thus, the urban community should not just focus on SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, but also look closely at how it relates to the 16 other goals. To achieve integrated approaches, we must learn from the past and undertake a massive transformation in the management of our cities.

We cannot meet the SDGs or the commitments in the Paris Agreement without changing how we manage our cities. Only then can we avoid a cycle of disorder, displacement, drought and famine, and increasing conflict. This vicious cycle is currently exemplified by the global migration and refugee crisis: most of the 60 million displaced people fleeing from inhabitable places are seeking refuge in cities, where they become the responsibility of local administrations. There is no development without peace, and no peace without development, said Töpfer, and cities are at the core of any development.

Integrated urban planning and management requires a better and shared understanding of urban trends, solutions, and challenges. An international panel on global urban sustainable development – similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in the climate field – could thus play an important role for the implementation of Habitat III. Peer exchanges and knowledge transfer are important as well. Regional and worldwide networks can become important facilitators, but are not yet visible enough.

We also need to shift the focus of our planning – from cities designed for cars to cities designed for people. To achieve this, we need to ensure that diverse interests are represented during planning and decision-making, including those who are often left out. We must find a responsible balance between political and technological solutions, while being responsive to people and relevant to different city contexts.

At the same time, cities do not exist in a vacuum; they are not islands, but instead are linked to other territories, rural areas, and small towns. Thus, urban policies need to be aligned with national development goals. In Quito, we must align national development strategies with urban strategies. Integrated development planning requires moving beyond siloed approaches and engaging all relevant ministries. Countries that are managing urbanization successfully – such as Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand – all have strong development planning efforts that use integrated approaches and coordinate across ministries.
The UN system also has an important role to play in supporting sustainable urban development. But the UN system must be reformed to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. UN agencies should not just focus on coordination, but also on how to integrate the efforts of different agencies to achieve better results. In addition, the UN needs to recognize cities and local governments as partners, granting them a distinct role in global governance.

Statement:
Klaus Töpfer, formerly Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

Panelists:
Danny Leipziger, George Washington University, USA
Eva Lohse, City of Ludwigshafen, Germany; German Association of Cities
Mohlago Flora Mokgohloa, City of Johannesburg, South Africa
Michael O’Neill, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Clare Short, Cities Alliance

Moderator: Melinda Crane
The world’s urban infrastructure needs more than US$ 65 trillion in investment over the next 15 years, according to UN Habitat. Given this figure, more than US$ 4 trillion per year is needed to provide the infrastructure necessary to keep up with projected urban population growth under a business-as-usual scenario. Therefore, business as usual is not an option. Cities are both the main contributors to climate change and its main victims. Social inequality is rising in cites worldwide. Today, about one billion people live in informal settlements in precarious conditions with little access to economic and social infrastructure. To tackle these problems, financing is necessary and national policies are as important as city policies.

All municipalities need reliable revenues. These include national transfers, their own revenues (e.g., local taxes, fees, and land value capture), and, in some cases, foreign assistance through ODA. Private investment under an adequate regulatory framework is indispensable. In addition, without debt financing, cities will remain unable to bridge the urban infrastructure gap. Institutional arrangements can reduce the cost of conventional borrowing, for example through revenue-intercepts and financial intermediaries.

Full cost recovery through user fees has been utilized mainly in telecommunication, energy (pipelines, electricity). User-based financing sources (generating a budget surplus) are often energy, water, and, to a limited extent, hospitals. User fees cover only part of the costs of public service projects, such as urban public transportation, water and sewerage, or city cleaning.

Governments have to protect common interests and common goods. Especially when interest rates are low, insurance companies and pension funds are interested in investments with stable and predictable returns. However, privately funded infrastructure remains the exception, rather than the rule. Additionally, where no profits can be created, Public Private Partnerships are often no option for financing.

According to the African Economic Outlook 2016 (covering 54 countries), most African capitals are poorly funded, the situation in intermediary cities and towns being even more dramatic. Central government transfers make up a significant share of local budgets. Some African cities hardly raise any of their own local revenues. However, local revenues matter a lot for incentives, not just for financing, as they enable municipal creditworthiness. ODA is critical to developing infrastructure and capacity (sectoral and financial management) and to strengthening and supporting financial intermediaries.

**Key messages**

- Local governments need reliable revenues (national transfers, grants, and their own revenues, especially taxes) to realize infrastructure investments and cover operational costs. Municipal finance requires supportive legislative frameworks and legal mandates at all levels of governments.

- Local governments, particularly in growing secondary cities, need capacities for financial management and for linking finance to integrated urban management, as well as to project planning and implementation.

- Cities in developing countries and emerging economies need access to debt financing. Context-sensitive approaches are needed (e.g., intermediaries, national development banks) to bridge the investment gap.
INCLUSIVE CITIES: POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

Workshop Conveners:

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

Panel:
Somsook Boonyabancha, Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR)
Saidul Karim Mintu, Jhenaidah Municipality, Bangladesh
Mahmuda Alam, BEAC University, Bangladesh
Junia Santa Rosa, formerly Ministry of Cities, Brazil
Muhammed Lutwama, ACTogether and Slum Federation, Uganda
Frederic Vallier, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
Moderator: William Cobbett, Cities Alliance

SUMMARY

In many cities in Latin America, Asia and Africa, where informal and illegal settlements can accommodate between 30 and 80 per cent of the urban populations, the future of the city will be significantly determined by the effectiveness of social inclusion. Yet even though the residents of these informal settlements and slums make a significant contribution to urban economic growth, they are often deprived of even the most basic urban services, such as water supply, drainage or sewerage systems, personal and tenure security.

What makes cities inclusive? Cities are melting pots, bringing together people with different cultures and backgrounds. Inclusiveness can take many forms, such as access to housing, public space, jobs and sanitation services. The movement proposing the Right to the City raises important questions such as the definition of the city itself, the provision of access to public spaces and public services, the rights of women and the promotion of gender equality, all of which are essential in ensuring that everybody has access to all parts of the city.

What are the main obstacles to inclusivity for cities? People and social dynamics are moving much faster than the ability of national governments, cities and institutions to react. Most cities have neither sufficient capacities nor institutionalised mechanisms or concepts for participation and inclusion. A closer look reveals that European cities are not as inclusive as they seem, especially in view of the recent radicalisation processes and increased violence. More and more, religion seems to be the first reference point for many citizens. This fairly new development was unexpected by local governments, which are not prepared to confront it. In Asia, most countries are becoming more centralized, rather than decentralized, and lack resources. Lack of housing development is clearly a serious problem; cities do not have the required knowledge, capacities, resources, mechanisms, and land for local housing development programs.

That is one reason why the inclusivity gap is increasing. In addition, the existing financial system contributes to poverty. We still face the problem of big institutions and big banks which only provide funds for big infrastructure projects, but do not facilitate more equitable change. We need more social finance. But how can a city embrace the issue of inclusivity and make poor people part of its development? City-wide change is only possible if we build new partnerships, but we still have too little knowledge about our people and how to include them as active players.

The challenge we still face is balancing the trade-off between social and environmental agendas and determining how housing programmes and inclusivity programmes could foster low carbon development. The burden of these challenges is often falling on the unhoused.

Key messages

→ Give people the opportunity to act: enabling is key. Providing seed funding and the legal framework is necessary for them to drive change in our cities.

→ Inclusive development can only happen if all citizens are part of it, regardless of their legal and economic status. Therefore, citizens can become actors, rather than only users.

→ Who will finance inclusion? Are we promoting competing approaches, such as low carbon cities versus smart and innovative cities versus inclusive cities? We need to confront urban challenges in an integrated way.
REALISING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES THROUGH FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Workshop Conveners:

Panelists: Rüdiger Ahrend, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
Gino van Begin, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability
Daniela Chacón, City of Quito, Ecuador
Karim Hussein, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
German J. Jeub, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Germany
N.Nilwala, Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation, Animal Product, Health and Agrarian Development; Western Province, Sri Lanka
Henk Renting, RUAF Foundation
Guido Santini, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Moderator: Thomas Forster, EcoAgriculture

SUMMARY

Worldwide, cities are becoming functionally and spatially interlinked with the surrounding peri-urban and rural areas – and food security and nutrition are some of the most obvious points of mutual interdependence. Against this background, smallholder agriculture is a key element to ensure livelihoods and food security in both rural and urban areas, improving incomes, consumption and nutrition. However, food security should not only be seen as just a rural or agricultural issue; it has also many socio-economic dimensions.

While cities and urban centres of different sizes are responsible for providing shelter, a good economy, mobility, and education, they often lack both skills and budgets to address food security issues. Integrated governance frameworks, such as the food councils that have been established in Bristol, offer innovative cooperative solutions for strengthening city-regional food systems, including rural areas. These frameworks involve representatives from cities and the surrounding regions and thus bring in various perspectives on creating efficient and reliable food supplies, distribution, and value chains, minimizing food losses and waste, and enhancing the quality of products. A fundamental step is regulating land speculation to avoid harmful impacts on agricultural production and ecosystems.

Sound national frameworks (laws, inclusive governance structures, territorial approaches, budgets, and instruments) are key to enabling local governments to develop innovative food policies and shape sustainable production and consumption patterns through partnerships with stakeholders, including smallholder farmers. Institutional mechanisms to promote coordination and cooperation between rural and urban areas and people, between rural and urban sectors and spaces, as well as between local, metropolitan, national, and international levels, need to be established. Food can serve as an important integrator of many sustainable development goals, bringing together different policy efforts and investments across sectors.

It is important at the same time to highlight that urbanization can have positive effects for rural areas and people where rural-urban synergies and complementarities are maximized in inclusive and balanced ways. Integrated territorial development strategies that reflect the many reciprocal flows between rural and urban areas are critical to ensuring food security, promoting an equitable distribution of resources, and to achieving balanced development that is socially and spatially equitable for all inhabitants in rural or urban areas.

Key messages

→ As there can be no sustainable urbanization without sustainable rural development, we must strengthen integrated and inclusive territorial development approaches that take into account the multiple reciprocal flows between rural and urban areas.

→ A national framework (laws, inclusive governance structures, budget, and instruments) needs to be established to enable local governments to develop innovative food policies, foster rural and urban linkages, and shape sustainable production and consumption patterns through partnerships with stakeholders, including smallholder farmers.

→ Food and agriculture, especially smallholder farming, should be key elements of integrated territorial development strategies to enhance social and spatial equality for all citizens in both urban and rural areas. As integrators of many sustainable development goals, food systems should be harnessed as entry points that can bring together policy efforts and investments across sectors.
SMART CITIES: ICT AND SMART PLANNING

Workshop Conveners:

Panelists:
Jens Klessmann, Fraunhofer FOKUS
Elke Pahl-Weber, Technical University Berlin
Werner Spec, City of Ludwigsburg, Germany
Dieter Steinbach, German Association AT-Verband Stuttgart
Moderator: Petra Wolff, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany

SUMMARY

Smart cities are not just technically interconnected; they also promote participatory and transparent planning processes. To improve their services and infrastructure, they utilize data for local economic development and they combine data from many sources for evidence-based decision-making. Modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) enable sustainable urban development and are increasingly important for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The shift from “data silos” to “ready-to-use data collection systems” is critical. This shift requires technical provision, sustainability of data, and an urban data ecosystem. We must remember that the Smart City approach is not the goal; instead, it is an instrument to achieve more sustainable cities. Municipalities should exercise sound data stewardship. Further, the smart city should be a human-centred innovation. In this light, capacity development for collecting and using data becomes vital. Any decision should be preceded by a sound problem analysis, followed by weighing and deciding upon the most suitable of options and finally implementing a solution.

To advance the debate on applying Smart Planning and the use of ICT, we need more cooperation between cities, academia, and other research institutions. Sound research should improve data quality and should address legal problems as well as cultural challenges. This can also be achieved through better participatory mechanisms for data management and urban planning. Methods such as Urban Design Thinking can help facilitate more inclusive urban planning through co-production.

Key messages

→ Cities need demand-driven planning based on reliable data; municipalities must assume data stewardship.

→ We need to move from participation to co-production, and build solutions based on the definition of the problem.

→ A “Smart City” is not a goal; it is an instrument towards sustainable urban development.
Role of Cities

Cities need to be empowered through clearly defined mandates, powers, and resources, along with the corresponding capacities. The relationships of cities – with other cities, different levels of government, business and civil society and all other relevant actors - need to be rethought to achieve sustainable urban development. Thus, as cities will be critical to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the United Nations system must allow local governments to contribute to relevant global negotiation processes through a seat at the table. At the same time, well-defined communication channels between local governments and civil society are needed, and civil society needs to be enabled to articulate and represent the interests of all citizens.
The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to leave no one behind. The New Urban Agenda should seek to leave no one behind and nowhere out. People and places cannot be separated in the daily life of citizens; that’s why it is vital that both agendas are implemented together in our cities and territories.

“Leaving no one behind” means making sure that we have a “city for all”. All men, women and children have the same Right to the City. The “city for all” is a city for everyone, whether they live in metropolises, intermediary cities, small towns or rural areas. Today, unlike in the cities of ancient Rome, we are all citizens. Citizenship and the rights it confers should not be limited to those who own a particular passport. Everyone who resides in a human settlement should enjoy the Right to the City.

The “city for all” must include those who have always lived there, those who are migrating there, and the generations yet to come. Recognizing the Right to the City or the right to human settlements means fighting the increasing inequalities that we are witnessing at all levels, locally and globally. “Leaving no one behind” and “leaving nowhere out” mean rebalancing our societies.

The unprecedented urbanization process that will take place over the coming decades must rebalance our territories. This rebalancing must leave nowhere out from urban slums to rural areas. We must rebalance the territory by planning at national level for a system of cities in which metropolises, intermediary cities and rural areas complement each other. We must rebalance the metropolis and its neighbourhoods. We must rebalance slums. We must rebalance the relationship between urban and rural areas. We must replace gated communities and insecurity with public space and the commons.

“Leaving nowhere out” means investing in basic services and infrastructure to combat territorial inequalities. The urbanization process must be harnessed in such a way that it helps to re-balance the territory.

And, finally, we need to rebalance governance between public institutions, the private sector and civil society. All three groups are made up of people in the city, all of whom must co-create the city together. Getting the balance between these groups right should also lead to the right balance between the state, the market and the commons. Now is the time for civil society to have a greater role than ever before, and for us to rediscover and protect the commons.

Similarly, we need to rebalance the ownership of the New Urban Agenda. The zero draft of the agenda was a good attempt to incorporate a balanced view of all of the groups that had participated in the consultations. The participation of the local governments and civil society representatives through the Global Taskforce (GTF) and the Global Assembly of Partners (GAP), respectively, was significant, and we felt the draft addressed many of our priorities.

The private sector, on the other hand, has not been very active in the Habitat III process, especially compared with their active role in the climate, the development and the financing for development agendas last year. The private sector has the capacity and the means to lobby national governments and international institutions (through associations, foundations, philanthropic organizations, subsidized NGOs, think tanks and experts) and as such may not see the need to participate in formal processes.

The zero draft of the New Urban Agenda is now in the hands of UN member states. At this stage, as local government representatives, we are willing to keep participating if we are considered co-owners in the co-creation of cities and the Habitat III process. It will be essential to rebalance power between national and local governments if the New Urban Agenda is to be implemented. Local governments also believe that it is indispensable to have the local private sector and local civil society movements on board in this process.

In 1957, almost 60 years ago, Peter Drucker already clearly framed the question: “To be sure, the central government in an industrial society has to be strong. It has to do a great many things which earlier governments never dreamed of, or perhaps never heard of. But precisely because it has to be strong, central government in an industrial society has to free itself from the jobs that require local knowledge, local decisions and local action—for the same reason that the top management of a big business, in order to be strong, frees itself from operating decisions through decentralization to local managers in charge of operating units”.

Mayors do not want to rule the world, they just want to do their job; applying their local knowledge to local decision-making, taking action locally and being held accountable by local people. The New Urban Agenda should be the job of local leaders. Mayors are ready to free up central governments, they just need the local autonomy and resources to do so.

In the highly interconnected world that we live in today, with the growing links between the global and local challenges, it is imperative for the international community to acknowledge local leadership. The recognition of a special status in international policy making and implementation processes will be key to achieving sustainable development. The Habitat III conference is an unprecedented opportunity to make this happen.
SUMMARY

The New Urban Agenda should not only be for cities, but needs to be prepared with cities. As cities will be critical to the implementation of the agenda, the United Nations system must allow local governments to express their needs and experiences and to contribute to relevant global negotiation processes through a seat at the table.

Cities are also critical to achieve the majority of the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, the 2030 Agenda lacks guidance for city administrations on how to implement these goals and targets – a gap to be filled by the New Urban Agenda. This link between the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) needs to be elucidated. The New Urban Agenda should thus define common principles, priority areas for action and adopt an integrated and systemic approach rather than a sectoral approach.

Enabling conditions for cities are crucial for the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Cities need a better mandate for action through national urban policies, need to be enabled to manage their own resources with greater autonomy, and require sufficient capacities. The enabling conditions should follow the principle of subsidiarity and ensure enhanced decentralization. Multi-level and cross-sectoral governance is a further critical precondition for cities to implement effective action.

Good urban governance and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda require evidence-based decision-making. In this context, a strong monitoring and review mechanism is needed to achieve accountability and political commitment. It needs to enable all relevant perspectives to be heard, and should highlight the importance of information and data collection driven by citizens, particularly by the urban poor.

Cultural diversity is an important dimension of liveable and sustainable cities. Thus, the New Urban Agenda should acknowledge the importance of culture to drive sustainable development. It should also acknowledge the importance of a renewed social contract, but avoid an extensive debate on rights that could distract from the truly critical points. In this sense, the “Right to the City” is the correct answer to the wrong debate.

Key messages

→ The NUA should appreciate cities as complex actors, not just as municipalities or demarcated urban zones. Cities and urban settlements are co-produced by a multitude of actors. It is precisely the quality of diversity that represents its fullest potential.

→ The NUA should include positive cultural engagement as transformative commitment; not just as a point of leverage. Sustainability can only be achieved through a balance of ecological, economic, political and cultural commitments.

→ Focus on the enabling conditions to be defined by the NUA. The NUA could make a decisive difference and add value to the already-existing elements of the Agenda 2030 by providing clear criteria and affirmative guidelines for setting up effective delivery frameworks for the Sustainable Development Goals and other global agendas.
SUMMARY

Women are creating urban solutions as their community and city level work features good urban practices and effective problem solving. Working on decent housing and basic services and climate and disaster resilient and safe cities for all, women are modelling inclusive development. Women are transforming their cities across many dimensions and are contributing to local and national ownership of the New Urban Agenda.

Women's right to self-determination is crucial for the whole community. Women champion their families and communities in the face of disaster threats and when top-down development interventions ignore the local context and women's role in developing solutions. Local and national governments must validate grassroots women's groups as agents of change to achieve resilient, sustainable cities. The New Urban Agenda's mandate of 20 years requires pathways of transformation that empower women and position them as decision makers and agents of change to succeed. This will align the New Urban Agenda with SDGs 5 and 11 (on gender equality and sustainable cities and communities, respectively) to produce equitable results.

No one left behind requires women to be at the centre of the New Urban Agenda with a fair share of priority setting and decision-making roles. Discrimination and power inequalities are systemic challenges. Thus the New Urban Agenda must promote local action that consciously favour a level playing field—rewarding gender, class and race balanced processes. Visibility of all types of women is also needed; as is the recognition and resourcing of women's care and unpaid reproductive roles. As women are often transmitters of cultural heritage a careful balance needs to be reached to guarantee social justice and rights of women.

Prosperity for all cannot be reached without an enabling environment for women to achieve equal access to resources. This requires solutions that enumerate and address the number of women living in informal settlements, working in low earning positions in the informal economy and assuming unpaid care burdens in their families and communities. Women's unequal access to land and housing tenure, credit, and markets obstruct their economic empowerment. Public investments and responsive support systems are essential to reduce these barriers and facilitate women's full participation in their urban economies.

By building on grassroots women's knowledge in disaster management, governments can strengthen resilience. To achieve this, it is essential to resource community organizations, engage in local capacity building and expand participatory processes. With formal support, empowered women will champion local risk reduction and innovative practices to co-produce resilient communities and democratic local governance in their cities.

Key messages

→ Women, over half of the population, must be at the centre of the New Urban Agenda (as decision makers in priorities, planning, implementation and monitoring) to produce gender responsive, just cities.

→ As co-creators of cities, women contribute to inclusive prosperity. Women are playing multiple roles in the informal, formal, and private and public care economy. Public investments and support systems are needed to compensate women for their diverse contributions to economic growth.

→ Climate and disaster risks are disproportionately born by poor communities and grassroots women’s groups spearhead efforts to protect their families and communities from them. The formalisation of women’s leadership, investments in their capacity building and in public partnerships with local authorities therefore are key to effective results.
Urban Governance, Civic Participation, and Capacities

Workshop Conveners:

Panelists:
Silvia Haas, City of Leipzig, Germany
Sara Hoeflich de Duque, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
Rose Molokoane, Slum Dwellers International (SDI); South African Federation of the Urban Poor (FEDUP)
Eduardo J. Nguenha, National Association of Mozambican Municipalities (ANAMM)
David Satterthwaite, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Moderator: Martha Gutierrez, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Summary

It’s not an Urban Agenda if it’s not on urban governance: urban governance implies widening the scope and shifting focus from governments to governance, from the national to the local levels, including civil society organizations and people on the ground.

Urban governance, civic participation and capacity development of local governments and organized civil society should be the main topic to be discussed in the context of Habitat III and the German Habitat Forum. Local governments should be recognized as crucial actors in urban governance, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. They should be part of decision-making bodies, but also making their own commitments.

However, the transformative potential of cities largely resides in its people. They need support in organizing and representing themselves. Experience with data collection in slum settlements shows that inhabitants know what they need. It is best to think with the people, not for or about them. Capacity development is still needed, however, because they do not know the rules of the game, which is still largely designed by national and local governments.

Empowerment and capacity development are needed on two levels: local governments and civil society. In addition, the relationship between these entities should transform into a more constructive team effort, potentially in the form of a “pact” between multiple levels and actors. However, different entities move in different spaces; for example, larger and smaller cities follow different logics and speak different languages. So, on the one hand, flexibility and balance are needed; on the other hand, well-defined relationships and well-structured cooperation (with the national level, but also with actors on the ground) can be most helpful.

Key messages

- Local governments should be subjects (not objects) of the New Urban Agenda; they should be signatories to it and part of the decision-making process for implementation.
- There is a need to:
  - Develop the capacity of local governments to manage city affairs in a responsive and inclusive manner and institutionalize participatory processes;
  - Develop capacity of civil society to articulate and represent the interests of all citizens, as well as to engage and establish well-defined communication channels between local governments and civil society.
- We must align coherent national decentralization and urbanization policies and ensure an enabling environment for a multi-level “pact” for urban governance.
All cities can make a contribution to the implementation of the SDGs. The New Urban Agenda should provide guidance and support for the integrated and coherent implementation of the SDGs in cities. In this context, it is essential that the New Urban Agenda is inherently implementable and actionable – with clear goals and targets and appropriate support mechanisms. Moreover, regular, high-level follow-up and review processes are needed to ensure that the New Urban Agenda is not forgotten. Broad ownership of the process needs to be fostered amongst stakeholders, and leadership needs to be inspired, e.g. by providing appropriate participation mechanisms.
The New Urban Agenda as articulated in the revised Habitat III draft, is a better structured and sharper document than its earlier incarnation. A clearer link is now visible between SDG11 and the New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Yet as we prepare for PrepCom III at Surabaya there is much to be done to articulate a transformatory global urban narrative that captures the popular and political imagination. Clarity is necessary around four open questions. First, how to foster the political consensus around implementation at the national and regional level, and an equal partnership between all levels of governments in support of this? Second, will member states make an unambiguous commitment to meet all relevant SDG goals and targets in cities in an integrated and concrete manner, not only those of Goal 11? This could build political interest in using the New Urban Agenda to address critical contemporary challenges: employment, development, poverty, security and basic services. Third, what are the necessary legal, financial and human resources and mandates required to implement the urban SDGs? Fourth, how can we empower key stakeholders, especially young citizens to make this possible?

There are four breakthrough ideas, all politically agreed, contained within the SDGs that may be useful to rebuild the New Urban Agenda scaffolding around, at Surabaya:

1. **Economic development, livelihood creation and the massive ongoing value creation** by cities and regions provides the savings, consumption and development outcomes that can make the New Urban Agenda a reality. Given the current global economic environment, this is the primary reason for focused political attention, financial commitment and investment mobilisation to support cities and regions to implement the SDGs.

2. The SDGs have now confirmed that all countries are ‘developing’ on at least some goals and targets. In the same way, all cities and urban areas across the world have some distance to go in implementing the urban SDGs. The New Urban Agenda should encourage and support all cities and regions to prepare for SDG implementation and incentivise those that progress more effectively than others.

3. “No place should be left behind (SDG 11) and no person left behind” is a dramatic commitment to addressing sectoral and spatial inequality. Cities will be leaders in implementing this conjoint agenda, especially at the scale and scope that has been committed to in the SDG Summit and the Paris Climate accord.

4. Many cities are more advanced in planning and implementing the 2030 development agenda than their national governments. The New Urban Agenda should provide a **three-dimensional (3-D) scaffolding for visioning, planning, implementation, monitoring and impact assessment**: one, multi-scalar (local to global); two, multi-sectoral (SDG 1 to 16); and three, multi-stakeholder (from governments, enterprises, to civil society and community organisations). This should be a flexible architecture to accommodate the tremendous spatial and temporal diversity necessary for effective global implementation.

Over the last three years, the global urban community, led by local and regional governments, came together in a remarkable way, working with member states to co-create and politically endorse the urban SDGs and the important role of cities in the Paris Agreement. We now need to grasp the big picture that citizens of the world demand of us. We need to close ranks yet again and commit to a New Urban Agenda whose implementation is tracked annually in each country and internationally at least every two years. If we wait another 20 years for Habitat IV, this ambitious agenda will be forgotten. Regular, high-level monitoring will help us build year-on-year innovation and implementation processes in tens of thousands of places across the world, to help us realise the 2030 outcomes that we committed to in September 2015.
VOICES ON HABITAT III

We need a new paradigm for behaviour and thinking in the urban space. We need to galvanize regional and city governments to help implement the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. The technical knowledge exists, but the political framework is missing.

The relationship between levels of governance needs to be transformed. Collaboration has to replace competition, said William Cobbett. National governments should not view local governments as just administrative arms. Citizens turn first to their local governments for assistance, but most decisions are made at the national level. Local governments need the space to develop their own solutions; policy experimentation and innovation should be encouraged.

In 2015, we recognized that local governments are enablers; now we see they are the solution, not the problem. This recognition requires understanding different perspectives, as well as sharing common responsibilities, successes, and failures at all levels. To ensure a good relationship between the city and its citizens, we need legislation that promotes both economic development and people’s rights, as well as legislation and rules that allow us to live together in solidarity and improve our shared environment and the places we live.

The concept of citizenship needs to include all citizens: formal and informal, public and private, male and female, young and old. Every person excluded is energy and opportunity lost. Women have been particularly active in this process and should be recognized as co-planners and co-creators of cities. The transformation of urban life is uncomfortable, and marginalized groups have been key drivers. We need to have the courage to explore unusual or new paths, changes, and solutions. Solutions that will make us feel good 50 years from now need to be explored today – or we will never start, said Sheela Patel.

Who is going to run the cities of the future? We need to build local capacity and professionalize city administration. We need to attract people with skills and experience to city-level governance. We do not lack technical solutions, but we do not have the skills and capacity to realize them. Cities will also need the capacity to manage and generate their own resources, including moving beyond traditional systems of donor-recipient financing.

The urban transformation requires transforming our approach to partnerships. The New Urban Agenda will have to move beyond the Habitat II and Rio+20 calls for partnerships. Civil society and the private sector will be important partners; therefore, civil society actors should be viewed as co-planners and co-creators. The participation model of the 1960s and 1970s must be abolished and replaced with a governance partnership that embraces all actors and does not subordinate local governments to the national government. The World Urban Campaign and United Cities and Local Governments already contribute and collect commitments from a wide range of actors towards a more sustainable urban future. We also need a partnership approach within the United Nations, where local governments could be given a seat at the policy-making table beyond observer status.
To extend these efforts beyond Quito and maintain political momentum, we will need an effective follow-up mechanism. After Istanbul, there was no facility to implement the Habitat Agenda, such as the Global Environmental Facility. A successful follow-up mechanism will likely depend on developing a precise and implementable New Urban Agenda. We will have to consider the development of indicators and promote innovative data collection and monitoring methods. Local actors will play a key role in this follow-up framework, as Bernardia Tjandradewi pointed out.

Statements:
William Cobbett, Cities Alliance
Sheela Patel, Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC), Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)
Isaac Ashai Odamten, City of Tema, Ghana; National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG)
Bernardia Tjandradewi, United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)

Panelists:
Christine Auclair, World Urban Campaign, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Ernesto Gil Elorduy, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, Germany
Hilmar von Lojewski, Association of German Cities
Sandra Schilen, Huairou Commission
Frédéric Vallier, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

Moderator: Melinda Crane
THE ROAD TO QUITO AND BEYOND – MOVE TOWARDS HABITAT III

For the New Urban Agenda to be successful, it must be integrated with and linked to other international agreements, such as the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Günter Adler emphasized that if the New Urban Agenda is successfully linked to these agreements, it could make a considerable contribution to their local implementation. In this light, Habitat III could be the most important conference of the last decades.

Cities will need good, coherent policies to tackle the challenge posed by all 17 SDGs. Like the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda encompasses a wide variety of issues, for which a common understanding is emerging. For example, France focuses on three main priorities – prevent segregation, ecological transformation, and co-production of cities. Similarly, Ecuador prioritizes the social and environmental function of property, the right to live in cities, including a strong reference to urban nature and environment, and cities’ responsibility for implementing the global goals, emphasizing shared power and responsibilities.

To implement and develop new plans for and approaches to urbanization, we need the right institutional architecture. In addition to a strong monitoring and reporting mechanism, the architecture needs to inspire leadership, which can be encouraged by fostering ownership of the process through direct participation of all actors, especially city leaders. This, in turn, requires decentralization, which is both a technical process of increasing financial means and capacities at lower levels of government, and a fundamentally political process of devolving power.

This debate has direct implications for the role of cities following the Habitat III conference in Quito. Cities are seeking greater representation in the processes of the United Nations through dedicated organizations. City representatives frequently emphasize that cities want to participate in global events and in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. They do not seek to compete with member states, but are complementary to the United Nations and its members.

Thomas Silberhorn highlighted that local actors are of central importance for the development of a sustainable urban future and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This includes urban inhabitants, NGOs, academic institutions, media, business, and of course national and local governments.

New types of partnerships are needed to ensure continuity within the Habitat process, not only to take into account the results of previous Habitat conferences in Vancouver and Istanbul, but also to facilitate new financial instruments and provide access to sources of funding. For example, the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) represents more than 1,000 organizations and individuals from almost all countries. Further, the GAP recently called on the United Nations to declare a decade of sustainable urbanization, citing the urgent need to take action: at the projected pace of urbanization, we will need to build the equivalent of a city for one million inhabitants every week for next 40 years.
We must ensure that the New Urban Agenda is an action-oriented agenda, aligned with the current realities of global urbanization and establishing a vision for future development. We will need to develop champions for this vision and a document we can actually sell on the street, where we will need to take it after Quito. To make the New Urban Agenda successful, we need leadership, language that does not get lost in technical details of the 160 goals, and a strong sense of urgency.

Statements:
Günther Adler, Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB); Germany
Thomas Silberhorn, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Panelists:
Emmanuelle Cosse, Ministry for Housing and Sustainable Habitat, France
Jorge Enrique Jurado Mosquera, Embassy of the Republic of Ecuador to Germany
Daniela Chacón, City of Quito, Ecuador
Eugenie Birch, General Assembly of Partners (GAP)
Steven Weir, Habitat for Humanity International
Christoph Beier, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Moderator: Melinda Crane
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