UN⊕HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

TERMS OF REFERENCE - HABITAT PARTNER UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE – THEMATIC HUBS

Background
The Hubs express the thematic priorities of the Habitat Partner University Initiative, providing an opportunity for active partners to channel and connect existing academic interests. Each Hub is to bring together individual and institutional members under a particular focus, to gather international and cross-disciplinary expertise and perspectives relating to a priority of HPUI. Each Hub is to have (minimum) one concrete output, determined by Hub working groups. The Hub will not be acknowledged by the HPUI until their concrete output/outputs have been determined.

Background for the Hub themes
The general idea behind the Habitat Partner University Initiative Thematic Hubs is to draw on the global wealth of academic knowledge and connect academia focusing on particular areas which are key to sustainable future cities, promoting research and action under specific themes.
Below are the HPUI priorities, UN-Habitat focal areas and themes of the sixth session of the World Urban Forum in Naples in 2012:

HPUI thematic priorities	*UN-Habitat focal areas*	*WUF6 themes*
• Better urban planning and design for a rapidly urbanizing world. Participatory planning processes encompassing youth, gender and social equity, inclusion and its key role in sustainable urban development.	• Urban Legislation, Land and Governance	• Urban Planning: Institutions and regulations, including the improvement of quality of life
• Risk reduction and rehabilitation, promoting resilient cities: mitigation and adaptation of cities to climate change; prevention, protection, response and recovery from natural and human induced disasters	• Urban Planning and Design • Urban Economy • Urban Basic Services	• Equity and Prosperity: Distribution of wealth and opportunities • Productive Cities: Competitive and innovative cities
• Urban Economy and livelihoods. Decoupling economic development in cities from resource consumption	• Housing and Slum Upgrading • Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation	• Urban Mobility, Energy and Environment
• Urban land, legislation and good governance for future cities	• Research and Capacity Building	
• Urban basic services in a flexible and adaptive urban infrastructure. Integrated transport and spatial planning for sustainable mobility; integrated urban resource management such as waste, energy, water, materials		
• Slum upgrading, affordable housing and public space.		

A shortlist of themes was selected at the forum's Universities Roundtable with inputs from the partners. The intention is for these themes to drive the Hubs forward, feeding into the next World Urban Forum, where they are to be evaluated and updated, and ultimately contributing towards the Habitat III summit of world leaders.

The following list should serve as inspiration for future Hub proposals. For the full list of suggestions see the WUF6 Universities Roundtable Report at www.unhabitat.org/HPUI.
- *Urban Planning*
- *Urban Regeneration*
- *Urban Space*
- *Urban Models*
- *Gender, Secure City*
- *Mobility*
- *Safer Cities*
- *Natural Hazards*
- *Urban Technology and Public Space*
- *Urban Density and Shared Spaces*
- *Training*
- *Decision Making Process*
- *Multi Stakeholder Planning*
- *Food Security*
- *Food Systems*
- *Urban Agriculture*
- *Urban Infrastructure*
- *Climate Change*
- *Equal Planning*
- *Pedagogy and Outreach*

Criteria for priority selection of Hubs
- ✓ *Synchronization* > with UN-Habitat priorities, with priorities as identified by universities (such as that indicated by the list from WUF6 above), with national and global priorities
- ✓ *Impact* > great engagement with stakeholders, linkages to current practice, action research
- ✓ *Deliverability* > what can actually be implemented?
- ✓ *Fundability* > how will the work of the Hub be paid for?
- ✓ *Anchoring* > demand-driven approach, where work is driven by the needs expressed by communities, urban stakeholders and local government, through participatory processes
- ✓ *Connectivity* > to other Hubs, UN-Habitat projects/partners, as well as incorporating inter-disciplinary teams

Initial Hubs
Following the discussions at the Naples forum, the following five Hubs are initially being set up:

1. *Climate Change*
   Hub Coordinator: Shuaib Lwasa, Makerere University, Uganda
   Possible connections to UN-Habitat projects/partners: Cities and Climate Change Initiative, Cities and Climate Change Academy

2. *Informal Urbanism*
   Hub Coordinator: Christina Milos, University of Hannover, Germany
   Possible connections to UN-Habitat projects/partners: Global Housing Strategy to the year 2025, Global Network for Sustainable Housing

3. *Urban Agriculture*
   Hub Coordinator: Suzanne Speak, Newcastle University, UK

4. *Urban Governance*
   Hub Coordinator: Lara Gibson, London Metropolitan University, UK
   Possible connections to UN-Habitat projects/partners: 100 Cities Initiative, Training Institutes, City Mayor Networks, UN-Habitat City Profiles, State of the World's Cities report, Global Urban Observatory

5. *Future Cities*
   Hub Coordinator: Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy, University of South Florida, USA
   Possible connections to UN-Habitat projects/partners: Futurban

Hub formation and governance

Formation
Prospective Hubs need to formulate a concept note/application outlining its purpose, setup and outputs, see appendix A for the template for establishing a Hub. Following the approval of the HPUI Office the Hub is to proceed by registering on the webpage and report on its progress according to the guidelines outlined under "reporting" below.
The template for setting up a Hub is included in appendix A.

Governance
Governance structure of the Hubs includes the roles of:
- *Hub Coordinator:* host university and responsible academic serving as the coordinator of the work of the Hub, as well as being responsible for reporting. If the hub is developing highly recognized outcomes, brings together a large number of partners and is fully aligned with and significantly contributes to a UN-Habitat priority area, UN-Habitat's Executive Director, upon recommendation of the Steering Committee, may award the title of HPUI Chair to a Hub Coordinator.
- *Hub Committee:* Guiding the work of the Hub, providing regional representation
- *Hub Members:* Having a particular interest in the Hub theme, engaging in the production of the outputs of the Hub.
- *HPUI Office:* Facilitating connections between the Hubs and relevant projects or key colleagues within UN-Habitat, aiding in dissemination of outputs.

Management
The Habitat Universities interactive website will offer tools for facilitating internal Hub management, which will provide/allow for:
- *Overview of the individual and institutional membership of the Initiative, enabling contact with relevant parties*
- *Overview of the Hub membership*
- *Upload of the Hub discussion material and outputs*
- *Libraries of HPUI material (theses, articles, lectures, reports etc)*
- *Global discussion tools*
- *Function of collecting material produced by HPUI partners (theses, articles, lectures, discussions) into own library*

As overview of members and material, reporting and outputs are managed via the above tools all Hub members will need to register on the site.
Hubs will be reviewed every two years at the World Urban Forum to determine the continued suitability of their theme, outputs and governance.

Reporting
A reporting procedure will be agreed upon with the Hub coordinators and committees, according to the nature of their output. The Hubs will present their work at the HPUI Global Meetings (annually), the seventh forum in 2014 and, if terms of office are extended, at the Habitat III summit. It is also recommended the Hubs have their own side/pre-events at the next forum.
The outputs of the Hubs are to feed back into the Habitat Partner University Initiative both through published material and actions and events within cities. Progress of the Hubs is to be regularly published by the Hub on the HPUI interactive website. This online updating serves as part of the reporting of the Hubs, in addition to this a short progress report is to be filled in online annually. For an example see reporting template in appendix B.

Appendices
A: Template for the establishment of a Hub
B: Reporting template (to be conducted online)

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APPENDIX A:
TEMPLATE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A HPUI THEMATIC HUB

PART A: Description

1. Name of Hub:

2. Thematic Priority: delete/keep/add as relevant

- Better urban planning and design for a rapidly urbanizing world. Participatory planning processes encompassing youth, gender and social equity, inclusion and its key role in sustainable urban development.

- Risk reduction and rehabilitation, promoting resilient cities: mitigation and adaptation of cities to climate change; prevention, protection, response and recovery from natural and human induced disasters

- Urban Economy and livelihoods. Decoupling economic development in cities from resource consumption

- Urban land, legislation and good governance for future cities

- Urban basic services in a flexible and adaptive urban infrastructure. Integrated transport and spatial planning for sustainable mobility; integrated urban resource management such as waste, energy, water, materials

- Slum upgrading, affordable housing and public space.

3. Short description of Hub:
What:
Why:
Who:
How:

3. Linkages to HPUI Pillars
Education:
Research:
Professional Development:
Policy Advice:
Knowledge Management:

4. Possible linkages to UN-Habitat projects/partners:

PART B: Output

1. Description of output:

2. Frequency of output:

3. Expected accomplishments at end of term (seventh forum in 2014/Habitat III 2016):

PART C: Governance

1. Proposed Hub Coordinator:

2. Hub Committee: Involved Institutions/Individuals (regional balance), kindly include emails.
Africa:
Arab States:
Asia-Pacific:
Latin America:
Caribbean:
United States:
Canada:
Europe:

3. Other involved individual members (regional and gender balance), kindly include country and emails:

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APPENDIX B:
REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR HPUI THEMATIC HUBS

PART A: Description

1. Name of Hub:

2. Thematic Priority: delete/keep/add as relevant

- Better urban planning and design for a rapidly urbanizing world. Participatory planning processes encompassing youth, gender and social equity, inclusion and its key role in sustainable urban development.

- Risk reduction and rehabilitation, promoting resilient cities: mitigation and adaptation of cities to climate change; prevention, protection, response and recovery from natural and human induced disasters

- Urban Economy and livelihoods. Decoupling economic development in cities from resource consumption

- Urban land, legislation and good governance for future cities

- Urban basic services in a flexible and adaptive urban infrastructure. Integrated transport and spatial planning for sustainable mobility; integrated urban resource management such as waste, energy, water, materials

- Slum upgrading, affordable housing and public space.

3. Short description of Hub:
What:
Why:
Who:
How:

4. Linkages to HPUI Pillars
Education:
Research:
Professional Development:
Policy Advice:
Knowledge Management:

4. Linkages developed to UN-Habitat projects/partners:

PART B: Output

1. Description of accomplished outputs:

2. Description of planned outputs:

3. Updated expected accomplishments at end of term (seventh forum in 2014/Habitat III 2016)

PART C: Governance

Kindly update if there has been any changes in the following:

1. Hub Coordinator:

2. Hub Committee: Involved Institutions/Individuals (regional balance), kindly include emails.
Africa:
Arab States:
Asia-Pacific:
Latin America:
Caribbean:
United States:
Canada:
Europe:

3. Other involved individual members (regional and gender balance), kindly include country and emails: