



World Urban Forum

Cities: Crossroads of Cultures

Inclusiveness and Integration?

14-17 September 2016, Barcelona, Spain

THE DIALOGUES

DIALOGUE ONE: Partnerships for improving urban governance

Urban Cultures: Dialogue on Globalisation and Culture in an Urbanizing World

In an era of globalisation and rapid urbanization, cities are the crossroads of cultures. This dialogue will focus on ways in which cities have responded to the internationalisation of culture. Discussions will be held on how civil society is influenced by political ideas such as democratisation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens; How ethnicity has led to the historical segregation of urban space; How the successful fusion of cultures has led to urban renewal and the marketing of cities as dynamic tourist destinations. The central message is one of urban cultural integration and inclusion.

Urban Realities: Dialogue on Innovations and New Urban Policies

Our planet is being transformed from a largely rural to an urban world. In the developed world, city sprawls into city and industries cause ever more pollution. In the developing world, slums represent the worst of urban poverty and inequality. These challenges require a dynamic approach to urban management: Innovative policies make all the difference. This dialogue will review trends in national policy formulation and urban development. Experiences will be shared of innovative laws and policies in the areas of: social inclusion; land; housing and basic services; water and sanitation; local economic development and the role of local authorities.

Urban Renaissance: Dialogue on the evolving city

Cities are engines of growth. But, despite improvements in the levels of productivity and urban incomes through globalisation, corruption, poverty and social conflict are on the rise. Un-addressed, these threats could undermine the future of citizens everywhere. This dialogue will chart the evolving role of the city and identify how decentralization can improve accountability, efficiency and equity. It will also explore the role of local governments in meeting the socio-economic and cultural aspirations of communities. The aim of the dialogue is to find ways to empower city authorities within the local, national and international context.

Urban Governance: Dialogue on involving civil society to improve local governance

There is growing global consensus on the need to involve civil society in governance, particularly at the local level. This has been supported by increased democratisation and decentralization. This dialogue will look at emerging trends in the engagement of civil society from around the world. Participants will discuss innovative approaches; investigate barriers encountered and successful examples of partnership between governments, local authorities and civil society. The aim is to encourage greater involvement of civil society in city management and urban development.

DIALOGUE TWO: Thematic Issues

Urban Poor: Dialogue on Improving the lives of slum dwellers

Of the several Millennium Development Goals committed to alleviating poverty, UN-HABITAT is the focal point for Goal 7, Target 11, which aims to "achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers". This dialogue will provide an opportunity to assess existing tools, programmes and policies to make this goal a reality. The presentations will look at the progress made in the implementation of these targets including the current status of available resources. Ongoing policies, including processes for monitoring and evaluation will be reviewed. The aim is to identify improvements and agree on the way forward.



Urban Resources: Dialogue on Financing and Mobilizing Domestic Capital for Slum Upgrading

The cost of meeting the Millennium Development Goal of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers is estimated to be in the region of \$ 70 billion to \$ 100 billion. At present international donor support is less than \$ 300 million a year. While there is an urgent need for more aid targeted at slum upgrading, it is also important to mobilize domestic capital. This includes strengthening local housing finance and micro-finance institutions. This dialogue will present the experience of public, private and community sectors in raising funds for slum upgrading and discuss issues such as affordability, risk mitigation, and security of tenure for mortgage finance. The aim is to provide guidelines on how to establish strategic partnerships to stimulate pro-poor investment in human settlements.

Urban Sustainability: Dialogue on Ecology, Economy and Society

"Sustainable Urbanization" is a dynamic process that includes environmental, socio-economic and political-institutional dimensions. This dialogue looks at the challenges confronting local authorities and other partners in achieving social and environmental sustainability through better 'urban governance'. This includes assessing the effectiveness of tools such as social inclusion, decentralization, municipal empowerment and the mobilization of local resources through a culture of stakeholder cooperation. The aim is to encourage partnerships at every level: at the local level for social inclusion and environmental governance; at the national level for up-scaling demonstration projects like Localizing Agenda 21; finally, at the global level to support implementation of commitments like the Millennium Development Goals.

Urban Services: Dialogue on Making the Private Sector work for the poor

How can the private sector work for the poor? Unfortunately, the evidence suggests that increasing the share of the urban water market supplied by private operators does not necessarily represent progress towards the *Millennium Development Goal committed to halving the number of people without clean water and adequate sanitation by 2015*. This dialogue will revisit the debate on privatisation and investigate how key actors in the water sector, including international agencies, public sector regulators and utilities, civil society organizations and deprived residents themselves, can work with private companies. The aim is to find innovative ways to make the private sector more responsive to the needs of the urban poor.

Urban Disasters: Dialogue on Sustainable Relief Efforts in Post-Disaster Environments

Disasters can provide opportunities for sustainable development. But sustainable relief requires that rehabilitation efforts should be integrated into long-term strategies. This dialogue will revolve around the urgent need to transform disasters into opportunities for development. Problems and possibilities will be explored including vulnerability, risk mitigation, planning and response. The aim is to develop guidelines from the perspective of different actors – civil society, local/national authorities and international agencies - in order to provide a framework for future developmentally focused sustainable relief activities.

NETWORKING EVENTS

Apart from the dialogues, some *symposia* and over 80 *networking events* have been planned. These events are designed to provide additional opportunities for Habitat Agenda Partners to organize specialized events about urban development.

Some Topics and themes of the Networking Events

Architecture for humanity; Capacity building for local government; Child friendly cities; Committed cities / womens inclusive practices; The Campaign on Urban Governance; The economy of cities in historical perspective; Engendering political institutions; Forced evictions and security of tenure; Linking land management to urban poverty reduction; Micro-credit and financing of urban agriculture; Moviemakers on poverty and corruption in cities; Trans-national migration; Urban Inequities and GIS - Putting the poor on the map; the Urban Millennium Partnership: Youth congress