

WORLD URBAN FORUM 6

Habitat Partner Universities Roundtable Report  
NAPLES, 4 SEPTEMBER 2012

*“Shaping the Urban Future”*





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## **Introduction**

The University Roundtable was established to provide representatives of institutions of higher education a venue to meet at the World Urban Forum. With the Researchers Roundtable it provides a platform for the academia and researchers who represent a key stakeholder group as defined in the Habitat Agenda

The University Roundtable at the World Urban Forum in Naples, 4 September 2012 was attended by 99 participants from 82 institutions.

## **Background to the Roundtable**

The Habitat Partner University Initiative was introduced to promote cooperation between UN-Habitat and institutions of higher education, as well as facilitating exchange and cooperation among universities globally. The Initiative entered into a second phase in 2011. In this process a Habitat Partner University Initiative Office within UN-Habitat and an external Steering Committee consisting of representatives from Universities and UN-Habitat. The initiative also developed its Charter and tools for coordination and interaction.

To date, the Initiative comprises more than a thousand individual members, as well as more than eighty universities with different levels of engagement. The institutional members (universities) with the highest level of engagement have signed Memorandums of Understanding or Agreements of Cooperation with UN-Habitat, under which specific collaborative activities are ongoing. This implies that the Initiative is anchored in UN-Habitat but to a large extent is driven by its members. In this UN-Habitat via the Habitat Partner University Initiative act as an umbrella for facilitating interaction and partnerships leading to activities beneficial to sustainable urban development.

This year's Roundtable discussed ways and means to engage with more universities under the umbrella of the Habitat Partner University Initiative. The roundtable presented new tools available for partner engagement, as well as outlined roles and responsibilities within the initiative and introduced targeted Hubs to drive its priorities.

Using the theme of the World Urban Forum, "The Urban Future" as a starting point and focusing the participants' attention on Habitat 3, the Roundtable introduced mechanisms for collaboration and for advancing the urban agenda from a university perspective.

### ***Achievements since the last World Urban Forum***

Since WUF5 the Habitat Partner University Initiative has been fully established with a Charter and Terms of References agreed upon at the Global University Meeting in London in 2011. A Logo and a brand manual have been developed, and guidelines and information material for partner focal points developed. A website facilitating the management of the Initiative, encouraging a more active participation has been envisioned and is in development. Priority activities have been selected, such as the "Cities and Climate Change Academy" as well as curriculum development. Research collaboration under the Habitat Partner University Initiative has also started.

### ***Next steps and expected accomplishments by next forum***

By the next forum the Habitat Partner University Initiative expects the consolidation of the initiative into a mature programme with sufficient university and other partners to have a significant impact, along with increased research collaboration, the selection of a non-temporary steering committee and a base of individual and institutional partners actively engaging via the tools of the Initiative's platform, including; the interactive Habitat Universities site, the targeted Hubs, Global Urban Research Network and the Habitat 101 series.

## ***Objectives and Aims of the Roundtable***

### **Objectives**

1. Update on the progress of the Habitat Partner University Initiative. Presenting knowledge management tools supporting active member participation as well as upcoming activities under education (Habitat 101), research (Global Urban Research Network) and policy advice (Global Housing Strategy)
2. Determine priorities – prepare for Habitat Partner University Initiative hubs to drive the priorities, linked to Initiative's thematic areas, UN-Habitat focal areas and the WUF6 dialogues

3. Determine roles and responsibilities within the Initiative.
4. Announce upcoming events and calls for new activities

#### Aims

1. For the members to be updated on the progress and benefits of, and opportunities to engage within, the Initiative. Including new tools for both individual and institutional engagement.
2. The formation of working groups focusing on formulating the agendas for Habitat Partner University Initiative hubs, which are to drive the priorities of the Initiative
3. Determining the roles and responsibilities within the Initiative, in order to finalize the Terms of Reference for the governance structure.

### **Part 1: Setting the scene - introduction and opening remarks**

Delegates were welcomed by [Claudio Acioly](#), Head of Capacity Development Unit, UN-Habitat, who pointed out that the fundamental question for the roundtable concerned what roles universities can play in shaping the urban future, and in linkage with this determine the incentives for universities to engage with UN-Habitat. A need to look very closely at thematic priorities was also emphasized, as was the essence of having a roadmap to Habitat III, and the need to have the present institutions engaged and focused on the urban agenda. In regards to this, particularly the discussion on the thematic Hubs would be interesting to the participants of the roundtable as these were intended to focus the work of the Initiative across the education, research, capacity development and policy advice pillars.

[Sahar Attia](#) (University of Cairo), [Shuaib Lwasa](#) (Makerere University) and [Bruce Stiftel](#), (GPEAN) welcomed on behalf of the Roundtable organizers.

[Bernhard Barth](#), Coordinator of the Habitat Partner University Initiative, briefly updated on the progress of the Habitat Partner University Initiative since the meeting at WUF4 in Nanjing in 2008. The subsequent evaluation of the Universities Network, WUF5 in Rio de Janeiro in 2010, the setting up of the second phase of the Habitat Partner University Initiative; and the Global Meeting in London 2011, where the basis for the Charter and Terms of Reference of the Initiative. The reports of these events, plus the Charter and Terms of Reference as well as other related guidelines, are found on the Initiative's webpage: [www.unhabitat.org/HPUJ](http://www.unhabitat.org/HPUJ). He then explained that currently the main issue in advancing the Habitat Partner University Initiative was to agree on the thematic focus and how to coordinate university engagement; this was the focus of this year's universities roundtable discussion. The aim of the Initiative is to advance the urban agenda through the combined efforts of universities and UN-Habitat. To do this the Initiative is based on four pillars: education, research, professional development and policy advice, facilitated through a fifth pillar of knowledge management.

[Eduardo Moreno](#) focused on the importance of strategic partnerships with universities and the need to make sure that academic institutions are transferring ideas and critical information to cities. He extended an invitation to the participants to work together in agreeing on such areas and to collaborate on these priorities.

## Part 2: New tools and upcoming activities under the pillars

The second part of the meeting focused on informing on new tools and activities that provide entry points for an active membership. These tools were presented in relation to the Initiative's pillars.

### **Knowledge Management**

[Asa Isacson](#) from the Habitat Partner University Initiative Office at UN-Habitat presented the webpage tools for engaging partners and managing knowledge within the network. This webpage includes databases of both individual and institutional members, enabling an overview of the Initiative, as well as databases for knowledge (theses, lectures, reports etc) and interaction tools such as both open and private discussion forums. These tools are crucial for managing the Habitat Partner University Initiative, both for UN-Habitat and the academic partners, as the Initiative intends to be user driven and utilize the strengths of all partners. To be able to do this it is of essence that it provides the partners with the tools to engage and feel ownership of their work. Having a well-functioning site is also crucial to support engagement at all levels (from individual student to large institution) and at a global scale. The Initiative should not be dependent on physical meetings of high-level representatives but be open to engagement by all levels. The Habitat Universities interactive page is under development, currently approaching a beta version.

### **Education**

[David Fortin](#) from Montana State University presented the idea of using the academic networks to set up live international course streaming. These courses, named Habitat 101, intend to involve a combination of academia and urban actors. Habitat 101 functions along the lines of a Tedtalk ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)) providing lectures of high interest related to the UN-Habitat, and Habitat Partner University Initiative, themes. There are two options for how to develop the course:

Option A: Habitat Partner University Initiative hosting a series of lectures to be streamed live. Lectures to be posted on the website, comments and discussions to happen within this forum.

Option B: Global multi-disciplinary course. Next steps are to connect and set up a lecture series.

### **Research**

[Kosta Mathey](#), TU Berlin, presented the Global Urban Research Network (GURN), a network of researchers aiming to drive the research pillar of the Initiative. A key issue in this is what this network adds in relation to existing networks. Global Urban Research Network was discussed extensively in the Urban Researchers Roundtable (see the Researcher Roundtable report on [www.unhabitat.org/HPUI](http://www.unhabitat.org/HPUI)). Issues for discussion were the network purpose and stakeholders, whether to have an open list of topics or closed, its governance, its finance and topics for focus.

### **Professional Development/Policy Advice**

[Mohamed El-Sioufi](#) from UN-Habitat presented the Global Housing Strategy to the year 2025 (GHS) as one of the new initiatives within the World Urban Campaign. The Global Housing Strategy focuses on a global exchange of experiences and applied evidence based research. Global Housing Strategy has been looking at key trends, involving failure to respond to demands, growing urban sprawl and environmental sustainability. Target groups are organized via national habitat committees. He pointed out that Academia is a very important partner in the work of Global Housing Strategy as university capacities are broad and varied as are their potential reach into cities and communities.

### Part 3: Priorities and the formation of Habitat Partner University Initiative Hubs

[Sahar Attia](#) from the University of Cairo introduced the role of universities as knowledge clusters, developing research, partnering with and changing cities. Having researchers, professors and students with ideas and visions, academic credibility and accessibility to government and both local, regional and global knowledge, universities need to play an effective role in shaping cities.

She proceeded to define the idea of the HPUI Hubs as leading the Habitat Partner University Initiative and supporting its mission. Hubs can be formed by region, topic or theme and form the effective center of an activity, region or network. The idea of the hubs are to work together on targeted areas such as urban metropolitan planning, housing and slum upgrading, future cities, urban mobility, productivity etc. The original proposed priorities come out of UN-Habitat's themes. To launch a hub there will be an expression of interest, selection of a key theme, and a proposal of strategy to make it work.

First example: Urban Futures Habitat Partner University Initiative Hub, led by the Patel School for International Sustainability, University of South Florida. New approaches to urban development and integrated resource management for emerging cities (focus on Africa).

The role of the Hub:

- › Work with the community and urban stakeholders, managing the collaboration
- › Particular focus and concrete outputs
- › Driving the Habitat Partner University Initiative forward, feeding into Habitat III
- › Vision to generate new urban approaches

Sahar Attia proceeded to ask for separate group work (10 min) focusing on:

- › Identifying themes and indicating if you are working in same field already
- › Criteria for prioritizing
- › Expected outputs

The full result of the group work is listed in [appendix 3](#).

[Shuaib Lwasa](#) summarized some of the results of the group work, including:

- › Joint research activities
- › Shared databases (several times)
- › South-south cooperation
- › Knowledge sharing
- › Local public employees refreshed on UN-Habitat themes
- › Rehabilitation of urban centers, participation of planning

Bernhard Barth informed of the follow-up meeting for discussing the suggestions and further develop the Hubs: 12:00-13:30 Wednesday, Sept 5. The notes of this meeting is found in [appendix 4](#).

Shuaib Lwasa proceeded to open the floor for questions.

#### **Comments from the floor**

- › *Funders in the UK and globally are looking for ways to link academia with practical needs. Support is in particular needed to link up academia with policy makers. The question is what happens in a country where universities are not well funded but the need to engage them in policy in practice is huge – having a hub in such countries was critical. The mismatch of these circumstances needs to be considered.*
- › *Funding is an issue for researchers, how would it be possible to get the researchers from Developing Countries to be involved in this initiative? As research positions are often not full-time, i.e. not fully paid, the involvement of researchers from developing countries becomes even more difficult; this was particularly a problem for researchers in Latin America.*
- › *Elaborating on the previous two comments, the e-platform of the Initiative was seen as one of exchange. One of the advantages of a global platform could be to raise awareness of possible funding sources as it is difficult to keep track of which agencies fund what. Once there is a*

- stream of funding this could encourage researchers to more actively engage.
- › *There are ways to focus on solutions; joint themes are the way to go.*
  - › *The main reason for engaging in the Initiative should not be the hope for research grants. The main reason was to work together and to utilize the potential of universities globally; to not repeat work but to focus on achievements and applied research. It was time for academic institutions to serve their communities and cities. Funding was of course a problem, academics are not business oriented, but funds can be raised through applying academic knowledge and methodologies.*
  - › *It is important to remember that the Habitat Partner University Initiative was not only about research. It was also about education, professional development, policy advice, knowledge management, and feeding into UN-Habitat's work. This is an important key point to keep in mind.*
  - › *On interdisciplinary practices; a conscious effort to identify new areas to influence UN-Habitat's work was to be made.*
  - › *Knowing what goes on within governments makes it easier to target research so to make it relevant and financially attractive. One important aspect of the Hubs is to see how to define this research.*
  - › *Research need to be made available to professionals. Whenever incorporating capacity building into budgets there is an issue with tying it to individuals rather than the academic institutions themselves.*
  - › *The Hubs will need to retain credibility nationally, regionally as well as globally.*
  - › *Tools, techniques and methodologies are possible benefits of the Hubs, learning from each other. This was one reason to collaborate.*
  - › *Local authorities hiring consultants are usually getting the results the consultants anticipate they want to hear. This is why it is so important to approach urban change from the scientific side; to be independent.*
  - › *What the Hubs can do is organize information in a way that makes it easy for partners of the Habitat Partner University Initiative to be aware of and access knowledge and opportunities.*
  - › *Part of what the Hub can do as well is to ensure that capacity building is going the right way. Part of the proposal of the Hubs (or as a hub itself) should be to formulate and propose innovative ways in which capacity building is being implemented. There is a need to figure out the approaches of how to communicate.*
  - › *The current architecture for funding research is such that institutions in developing countries are not allowed to take the lead; many calls actually require institutions from OECD countries to take the lead.*
  - › *What would be the motivation to join the hub? One motivation would be the opportunity to influence practice and policy, for academic institutions to be at the table when UN-Habitat is drafting the vision of the future. That is the ability for universities to affect. The funds are not the issue.*
  - › *How can we know what the 9000 universities are doing? This is a very interesting question, again pertaining to the potential of the Initiative to provide an overview of opportunities, knowledge, ideas and information on and for academia.*
  - › *What mechanisms are there for interested individuals to be a part of these Hubs, is membership a pre-requisite?*
  - › *What are the drivers for getting involved? At an individual level there is the driver of making a change, but at the institutional level it is difficult to raise the engagement.*
  - › *The notion of the institutional membership is that it should happen on the highest possible level, it is quite broad as a definition and would probably allow for even a research group to be an institutional partner.*

**Summarizing the comments from the floor the facilitator highlighted:** Discussion about funding issues but also possibilities, need for South-South collaborations, need to define benefits of membership, importance of developing the mechanisms of cooperation in order to illustrate how universities benefit from the partnership. There were comments heavily focusing on the research pillar,

but also voices emphasizing that the Initiative is not just about its research component. The issues concerning research and funding, although important, should not overshadow the other pillars and aims of the Initiative. Other pillars, such as that of Education, also need to be prioritized in the Hubs. One important aspect raised was the need for overview of academic institutions and knowledge produced, and the potential of the Initiative to play an important role in regards to this.

## **Part 4: Roles, Responsibilities and Engagement**

[Bruce Stiftel](#) led the section describing the mechanisms behind the Habitat Partner University Initiative, which are to enable it to meet its aims.

### ***Individual membership***

Becoming an Individual member of the Initiative is reached through an open online registration process. Currently the Initiative has over 1000 members, and growing.

### ***Institutional membership***

To become an Institutional partner of the Initiative the Institution needs to have a proven commitment to the principles and a profile targeted towards Sustainable Urban Development. The partnerships are instigated through an initial exchange of letters with UN-Habitat. The partnership is signed at the “highest possible level” of the institution. To date there are 15 confirmed memberships, with more than 80 interested universities.

### ***Focal Points***

In the process of becoming an Institutional partner the university needs to determine a Focal Point. The Focal Point is an individual who takes responsibility for the communication between the institution and the Initiative. The Focal Point is the ambassador of the Habitat Partner University Initiative at the Institution, reports annually to the Initiative and votes for its Steering Committee members. Term of 2 years.

### ***Steering Committee***

Regional representatives are elected by the Focal Points. In addition to the regional representatives there are to be hub coordinators appointed by UN-Habitat, a WUC representative, and a GPEAN representative. Responsibilities include giving guidance and direction to the Habitat Partner University Initiative, approving the work plan, updating priorities and membership criteria, and recommending Hub coordinators. Meets face to face annually plus additional virtual meetings.

### ***Hubs***

The Hubs are a method for the Initiative to focus its work and engage its partners on concrete issues. The Hubs intend to draw on the existing global wealth of knowledge and connect academia globally to collaborate on specific areas. The work of the Hubs involves concrete outcomes to be presented at Habitat Partner University Initiative meetings and the World Urban Forum. The Habitat Universities site is intended to incorporate having tools for managing the Hubs.

### ***Comments from the floor***

- › *Centralization of involvement. Experience showed that involving academics works best on shared interests. Creativity gets choked when it enters the already quite slow and bureaucratic UN system.*
- › *It was a challenge to establish a network that is sustainable. Governance of the Hubs is to support mechanisms of keeping the members motivated.*
- › *At the Steering Committee meeting both of the above issues were under discussion, as were the life cycle of a hub, some may be longer while some may target issues and are short.*
- › *The concrete implications of these partnerships would be clearer if two or three outputs that are already achieved through the partnerships would be described.*
- › *The Habitat Partner University Initiative had now joined the standing committee of the World Urban Campaign which had launched the manifesto for cities the previous day; this was a key step towards collecting inputs from all Habitat Agenda Partners for Habitat 3. This strong engagement by universities provided them with a particular opportunity to shape the urban*



*agenda.*

- › *Another output is the joint development of curricula and course material as part of the Cities and Climate Change Academy. In different expert group meetings around 80 universities were involved.*
- › *When Cairo University started to have an interest in joining the Habitat Partner University Initiative, many were not convinced that it was important, but they started involving courses which related to UN-Habitat focus areas, which made it easier to follow up on what was happening in those areas.*
- › *The aim of the Hubs should be to build capacity among not only universities but also community based organizations. A current problem is that the information produced in universities does not reach the community.*

### **Notes on the comments in WUF6, compared to the contributions from WUF5**

Comments from the last forum (WUF5) included that the nature of universities and other academic institutions transcended the categorizations of being solely “education” or “research” etc, and that the Initiative needed to reflect this. In WUF6 the focus laid on focusing the work through Habitat Partner University Initiative Hubs that in a cross-cutting manner would incorporate the pillars of the Initiative, not focusing on one pillar but instead on the linkages between them.

WUF5 also discussed the tendency of universities to value research more highly than education, teaching and outreach, and the need for universities to stop considering themselves as isolated sources of knowledge, working more with other institutions, communities and policy makers in the co-production and use of knowledge. Both these points were addressed in this year’s WUF, the first through introducing the Habitat 101 course and the development of urban climate change modules which intend to give more focus to the “education” pillar of the Initiative, and the second through introducing the HPUI Hubs which intends to not only drive the priority areas of the Initiative but also be cross-institutional and engage actively on these areas with policy makers and communities. The Hubs are an attempt to tackle the contradiction of uniting while staying autonomous as a university, through engaging on particular targeted issues and thereby use the particular strengths inherent in the university, applying lessons learnt from a specific context while joining global forces with other universities under the umbrella of a Hub.

In response to the recommendation emanating from the University Roundtable of WUF5, for universities to value service and outreach more highly, the Habitat Universities site could prove an important tool, as it provides a platform for sharing knowledge, opportunities, resources and collaboration possibilities, not only among universities but also with other urban stakeholders. The Habitat Universities site is also a response to the repeated request from universities (both expressed in the previous World Urban Forums and in the feasibility report for the Habitat Partner University Initiative) to have a global electronic repository for information and dissemination of actionable knowledge, providing linkages between post-graduate and under-graduate students, sharing experiences and providing an easily accessible overview of the Habitat Partner University Initiative.

Many of the issues raised at WUF5 concerning the engagement of universities with specific issues (such as the right to the city, promoting social and gender equality, reaching policy makers, new methodologies, private sector involvement, “barefoot practitioners”, action research, practice-based learning, connectivity with local urban environments, re-shaping curricula) has the potential of being forwarded via the Hubs. Suggestions on the themes of the Hubs are found in [Appendix 3](#).

A number of contributors in this WUF’s edition of the Universities Roundtable focused on funding issues, mechanisms for how the Initiative was supposed to function as well as benefits of joining the initiative. It was also pointed out that the purpose of the Initiative transcended funding for research and that the other pillars and goals should receive a greater focus, in particular the pillar of Education.

## Conclusion and way forward

Concluding comments included the need for universities to engage with communities, the need to engage with policy makers as well as other linkages such as linking up with your next door colleague and to be aware of what is happening locally, regionally and globally. The participants recognized that a multi-disciplinary approach was crucial for understanding the complexity of urban systems and more importantly that engaging with all urban stakeholders is necessary for shaping the urban future. It was mentioned that although no university would ever like the UN to tell them what they should do, the potential of UN-Habitat to facilitate university collaboration was strongly recognized. The Hubs are focusing on this connectivity, uniting global academia under the guiding pillars and focus areas, intending for the work to be guided by their relevance to urban stakeholders and communities. Those interested in the Hubs were encouraged to continue this discussion in the [post universities roundtable meeting](#). Lastly, attention was drawn to the existing corporate site of [www.unhabitat.org/HPUI](http://www.unhabitat.org/HPUI), where the existing tools and guidelines for how to engage, as well as information of the background, news, Terms of Reference and other information of the Habitat Partner University Initiative to date are found.

The Roundtable was seen as an important networking event of likeminded academics and provided the opportunity for a continued dialogue, opening new grounds for positive coordination between academics. Universities are committed to enhancing urban education making it more relevant to the needs of cities; engaging in collaborative, innovative and applied research; more actively support capacity development of urban practitioners, provide policy advice at the local, national and global level and share knowledge with all stakeholders. In turn, universities appeal to local and national governments to engage with them in the common endeavor to improve the urban future.

Universities in Developing Countries asserted their role as equal partners in collaborative efforts; all universities acknowledged that fundraising is more successful if meaningful partnerships among universities and with other urban stakeholders are established. The participants of the Roundtable are willing to strongly engage with UN-Habitat, the Habitat Agenda Partners in the World Urban Campaign towards Habitat III.

Commitments to be achieved by next forum include the formation of “Hubs” that are focusing on specific themes that are aligned with UN-Habitat priority areas, around which these university led Hubs could be set up to provide innovative, multi-sectoral and cross-country mechanisms for addressing urban challenges and improving urban education. Universities are committed to present to the next forum the outcomes of these hubs.

### ***Recommendations and key emerging issues – Road map for WUF7***

- › *Institutional Issues – membership, governance*  
The membership of the Initiative continues to grow. A simplified registration process for institutional members and a membership drive in all regions is to significantly increase formal membership. The guiding bodies of the Initiative; Steering Committee and HPUI Office, will direct the membership towards areas where work is needed, representing University and UN-Habitat priorities in a dynamic manner. In essence, the architecture of the Habitat Partner

University Initiative is primed towards a partner driven approach, engaging all its members, from individual student to full institutions, by providing not only guidance but also the tools for its membership to respond to and act upon this guidance.

- › *Tools for an active membership – Hubs, website*  
The Habitat Partner University Initiative will provide tools to enable both institutional and individual partners to engage actively and disseminate their findings both within the Initiative, locally and globally. These tools are primarily; the *HPUI Hubs*, which embody the university driven engagement on priorities for UN-Habitat and universities and the *Habitat Universities website*, which gives each member the power to access the Initiative's combined resources (people, material, projects etc), to personally engage through sharing material and ideas, as well as apply for opportunities (collaborations, internships, scholarships, staff exchange etc) within the Initiative.
  
- › *Strengthening the role of universities in the Developing countries as equal partners*  
The Habitat Partner University Initiative is committed to a membership of equal partners, which includes ensuring equal representation of developing countries in all its governance levels. This includes the Steering Committee as well as the Hub committees. In establishing a Hub it is of essence that it includes a balanced representation of developing and developed countries, in order to ensure the priorities of all are heard and met.
  
- › *Preparations for HABITAT III*  
The progress of the Initiative will be illustrated through the targeted Hubs presenting their outputs. These represent the priorities of the partners and shows factual steps achieved towards sustainable urban development. Statistics showing the engagement of individual members on the website can be used as an indicator of how the Initiative involves all levels of the partnership.
  
- › *Education*  
The pillar of Education is defining of the Initiative and includes the potential of reaching the future practitioners of cities, informing of new findings, methods and priorities. In a collaborative effort among the partners the course Habitat 101 will be initiated, focusing on disseminating the work of the partners and incorporating the priorities of the Initiative into curricula. Climate change modules for urban education will be developed.
  
- › *Research*  
The pillar of Research is likewise one of the defining aspects of the Initiative. One of the main strengths of research is the utilization of academia to reach into communities. An important point is how to integrate the findings in practice and how reach back out into the communities. The Global Urban Research Network will coordinate the research efforts within the Initiative, providing means by which researchers may utilize the network to gain access to information, share material and methodologies and initiate collaborations. Research related events will support the work of the Hubs.
  
- › *Policy Advice and Professional Development*  
The pillars of Policy Advice and Professional Development concern the concrete engagement with local governments and communities. In this, it is essential for partner universities to initiate collaborations with urban stakeholders and to incorporate a multi-disciplinary approach. The Hubs are to establish strong linkages between global academia as well as between local contexts. A possible facilitating partner within UN-Habitat is the Global Housing Strategy to the year 2025.
  
- › *Fundraising*  
The partners, universities and UN-Habitat will commence using the HPUI collaboration to raise funds to support education, research, university-city partnerships and knowledge management.



**Appendix 1: Universities Roundtable Program**
***“Shaping the Urban Future”***
**Date:** Tuesday, 4 September 2012 13:30 - 16:00


<b>Programme</b>	
<b>Part 1</b> 20 min	<b>Setting the scene</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (5min) Welcome on behalf of UN-Habitat and the Habitat Partner University Initiative – Eduardo Moreno</li> <li>▪ (5min) Welcome on behalf of the co-organizers</li> <li>▪ (5min) Acknowledgement of participants and introduction of roundtable – Claudio Acioly</li> <li>▪ (5min) Update on the Habitat Partner University Initiative (setup, focus, partnerships, tools, mutual benefits) – Bernhard Barth</li> </ul>
<b>Part 2</b> 40 min	<b>Informing of new tools supporting an active membership and upcoming activities under the pillars – Bernhard Barth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (5 min) <i>Knowledge Management</i> Habitat Partner University Initiative network connectivity: new tools for an active partnership - Asa Isacson</li> <li>▪ (5 min) <i>Education</i> Habitat 101 - David Fortin</li> <li>▪ (5 min) <i>Research</i> Global Urban Research Umbrella - Kosta Mathey</li> <li>▪ (5 min) <i>Professional development/Policy Advice</i> Global Housing Strategy - Mohamed El-Sioufi</li> <li>▪ (20 min) <i>Comments from the floor</i></li> </ul>
<b>Part 3</b> 60 min	<b>Priorities and the formation of Habitat Partner University Initiative hubs - Sahar Attia and Shuaib Lwasa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (5 min) Introduction to forming Habitat Partner University Initiative hubs to take a leading role in driving the Habitat Partner University Initiative priorities – Bernhard Barth</li> <li>▪ (10 min) Introduction of suggested themes for the Hubs – Sahar Attia</li> <li>▪ (45 min) Based on the suggested themes for the Habitat Partner University Initiative Hubs, decide priorities for imminent development – Shuaib Lwasa</li> <li>▪ (10 min) Call of interest to develop each hub. Working groups to subsequently meet on 5 September 2012, 10:30-12:00 hrs at the university forum in the exhibition pavilion</li> </ul>
<b>Part 4</b> 30 min	<b>Roles, responsibilities and engagement – Bruce Stiffl</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ (20 min) Roles and responsibilities within the Initiative – informing of these as outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee, Focal Points and Habitat Partner University Initiative Hubs</li> <li>▪ (10 min) Announcing upcoming events and call for suggestions and engagement in new activities</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2: List of peers involved in the roundtable

### *Moderators and Speakers*



#### **Shuaib Lwasa**

Dr. Shuaib Lwasa is Lecturer, Department of Environmental Management, School of Forestry, Environment and Geographical Sciences, Makerere University. Dr. Lwasa has twelve years' experience in urban development issues and urban education. He has been involved in the Habitat Partner University Initiative to develop urban climate change syllabi and is currently investigating the state and challenges of urban education in East Africa.

Shuaib together with Dr. Attia led the discussion on priorities for the Habitat Partner University Initiative and the formation of Hubs.

#### **Sahar Attia**

Dr. Sahar Attia is Professor of Architecture & Urban Design and Director of the Postgraduate Program, Department of Architecture, Cairo University. Professor Attia holds a PhD in Urbanism from the Urban Institute of Paris. She has more than 30 years of experience in academia and the professional field, including in strategic urban planning, and sustainable urban habitat design & strategies.

Sahar together with Dr. Lwasa led the discussion on priorities for the Habitat Partner University Initiative and the formation of Hubs.



#### **Bruce Stiffl**

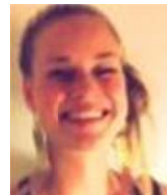
Professor of City and Regional Planning and Chair of the School of City and Regional Planning, Georgia Institute of Technology. Bruce has a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His major areas of interest include: Adaptive governance - collaborative means of building consensus on policy and planning; and Planning School Performance - measurement of school productivity and demonstrating success in the integration of practice into scholarship.

Bruce led the discussion on roles, responsibilities and engagement in the Initiative.

#### **Asa Isacson**

Asa Isacson has been with the Habitat Partner University Initiative since September 2010. Her interests lay in how connections between technology, the built environment and local governance can aid direct engagement and action towards a sustainable urban future. Her focus within the Initiative is on how to support an active role by its members through information and communication technologies. She is developing the interactive website of the Habitat Partner University Initiative, which intends to connect the potential of its members, open up for a member-driven Initiative and provide tools for partner engagement at both an individual, institutional and Hub level.

Asa introduced the tools of the Habitat Universities website.



#### **David Fortin**

David Fortin, Montana State University. Born and raised throughout the Canadian prairies, David is a registered architect in the province of Alberta where he obtained professional experience on projects of various scales. Upon completion of his doctoral research at the University of Edinburgh, he joined the School of Architecture where he primarily teaches design studio and architectural history. He is currently working with students and colleagues in Kenya and at MSU on developing sustainable strategies (including social, economic, cultural, and political realms of design) for housing in Nairobi that specifically integrate perceived distinctions between rural and urban conditions.

David introduced Habitat 101.

#### **Kosta Math y**

Dr. Kosta Math y is professor at the Global Urban Studies Institute, International Academy, Berlin Free University. At the Vietnamese German University in Ho Chi Minh City he is directing a Masters Course on Urban Development Planning. He also is co-director of TRIALOG, the German research network on planning and building in the South and one of the coordinators of



the working group on housing in developing countries of the European Network for Housing Research.

Kosta introduced the Global Urban Research Network.



**Mohamed El-Sioufi**

Mohamed El Sioufi has 35 years of experience practicing, advising and teaching in the field of human settlements. He has been with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) since 1995 where he is currently the Coordinator of the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch, responsible for the development of normative work regarding these substantive areas as well as Community Management. He is also managing the Global Housing Strategy to the Year 2025.

Mohamed introduced the Global Housing Strategy to the year 2025.

**Luigi Fusco Girard**

Luigi Fusco Girard is professor of Economics and Environmental Assessment in the Faculty of Architecture, at the University of Naples Federico II; he is Director of the International Scientific Laboratory on Creative City, and of the Interdepartmental Research Centre Calza Bini, University of Naples. Luigi is also Director of the Ph.D. Programme on “Evaluation Methods for the Integrated Conservation of Architectural, Urban and Environmental Heritage” and of the PhD School of Architecture, University of Naples Federico II.



**Eduardo Moreno**

Eduardo Moreno, Director of Research and Capacity Development at UN-HABITAT. Eduardo has over 20 years of academic and professional experience in housing and urban development policies, institutional analysis and urban poverty alleviation issues. Prior to his current position he was Chief of the State of the World's Cities. Prior to this post, he was the Chief of the Global Urban Observatory from (2002-2008) and Senior Technical Adviser in the Bureau of Africa and the Arab States, UN-HABITAT (1999-2001). He was also Chief Technical Adviser in Angola for UN-HABITAT (1996-1999). He has an extensive number of publications: five books on topics related to social housing, land policies and urban development. Dr. López Moreno is the Task Manager and principal author of the *State of the World's Cities Report 2006/7, 2008/9, 2010/1*

and, 2012/13.

**Claudio Acioly**

Claudio Acioly, Head, Capacity Development Unit, UN-Habitat. Claudio Acioly is an architect and urban planner with more than 30 years of experience. During the period 2008-2012 he was chief Housing Policy Section of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and coordinator of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme jointly implemented with the Office of UN High Commissioner of Human Rights. From 1993 to 2008 he was senior housing and land policy expert with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies-IHS where he coordinated the master programme specializations on Land and Housing. He is the author of books and articles dealing with housing, informal settlements and slum upgrading, urban densities and participatory urban management and has lectured extensively on these themes internationally



**Bernhard Barth**

Bernhard Barth is Coordinator of the Habitat Partner University Initiative, UN-Habitat. Bernhard Barth took up the position of coordinator for the Habitat Partner University Initiative in January 2011. He has been with UN-Habitat since late 2006 where he worked primarily in the field of Capacity Development on Urban Environmental Issues. In the Cities and Climate Change Initiative he remains a focal point for tool development and for the Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy. Previously he worked for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and prior to this in various NGO's in London, Papua New Guinea,

Madagascar and Germany primarily on issues of Governance.

### **Appendix 3: Participant list**

1. China: Tongji University, Siegfried WU
2. Germany: TU Darmstadt, Julian Wekel
3. USA: Purdue University, Mark Hastak
4. Germany: TU Berlin, Gunter Meimert
5. Switzerland: HIEID, Franlieb Weberherr
6. Tanzania: National Institute of Transport, Zacharia Mganilwa
7. Colombia: Universidad del Rosario, Paula Quinones Jaramillo
8. UK: London Metropolitan University, Lara Gibson
9. Netherlands/Chile: TUD-IBIS (Research Network), Marisa Garmona
10. New Zealand/ Fiji/Samoa/PNG/Solomon Islands: University of Auckland, Yvonne Underhill-Sem
11. New Zealand/Egypt: University of Auckland, Kareem Ismail
12. UK: Oxford Brookes: David Sanderson
13. Norway: NTNU, Hans Skotte
14. Norway: AHO, Sven Erik Svendsen
15. USA: University of South Florida, Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy
16. Italy: University Naples Federico II, Luigi Fusco Girard
17. Norway: NTNU, Elena Archipovante
18. Brazil: Universidade Federal Fluminense, Regina Bienenstein
19. Belgium: University of Leuven, Han Verschure
20. Colombia: IDB, Andres Munoz
21. Brazil: Mackenzie University, Vanessa Padia
22. Australia: RMIT, Paul James
23. Germany: TU Berlin, Bettina Hamann
24. Norway: NTNU, Knut Stenberg
25. Netherlands: VU University Amsterdam, Peer Smets
26. Philippines: University of the Philippines, Mario Delos Reyes
27. Sweden/Ecuador: Lund University/IPUR Universidad Catolica, Ivette Arroyo
28. Italy: Link Campus University (Roma), Vincenzo Scotti
29. Brazil: University of Sao Paulo, Alex Abiko
30. Sweden: Lund University, Erik Johansson
31. Germany: TU Darmstadt, Lauren Ugur
32. Morocco: Ecole Nationale d'Architecture, Chavni Mohamed
33. USA: Montana State University, David Fortin
34. UK: Newcastle University, Suzanne Speak
35. Kenya/Sweden: UN-Habitat, Asa Isacson
36. Uganda: Makerere University, Shuaib Lwasa
37. Egypt: Cairo University, Sahar Attia
38. Egypt: Cairo University, Ahmed Shalaby
39. Kenya: UN-Habitat, Bernhard Barth
40. USA: Georgia Tech/GPEAN, Bruce Stiffel
41. Germany: GLOBUS, Kosta Mathey
42. Brazil: University of Sao Paulo, Emilio Haddad
43. Chile: Ministerio de Vivienda y Urbanismo, Paola Siclari
44. Sweden: Chalmers University of Technology, Maria Nystom
45. Sweden: Chalmers University of Technology, Pernilla Hagbert
46. USA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Gregory K. Ingram
47. China: Tongji University, Xueyuan Deng
48. Switzerland: Ecole Polytechnique Federale Lausanne, Fernando Lonardoni
49. Germany: Potsdam School of Architecture, Sheffi
50. Germany: Bochumi University of Applied Sciences, Egger



51. Finland: Aalto University, Riina Subra
52. France: IAU Ile de France, Helene Joiner
53. Mexico: ITESO University Guadalajara, Alejandro Mendo
54. Mexico: Auto de Guadalupe Mexico, Patricia Aguirre Sanchez
55. UN-Habitat. Yamina Djacta
56. France: TASK Research consortium/ECO City 2013 Summit, Alain Retiere
57. Ecuador: Polytechnica de Catalunya, Sonia Cueva
58. Portugal: Universidade Lusofona, Fernanda Magalhaes
59. Egypt: American University in Cairo, Khaled Abdelhalim
60. Italy: Global Host/FAO, Remi Kahane
61. Netherlands: IHS, Jan Fransen
62. Thailand: UN ESCAP, Natalja Wehmer
63. Germany: Peter Gotsch
64. Italy: University Salerno, Antonio Piccolo
65. Italy: Politecnico di Torino, Franscesca de Filippi
66. UK: University of Salford, Riccardo Balbo
67. Italy: Lanza Foundation, Simone Morandini
68. Morocco: Afirat Rachid
69. Morocco: L'ordre national des Architectes, Lokhnati Jamal
70. France: Paris/IFU university, Eric Huybrechts
71. Morocco: Institut d'urbanisme de Rabat, Abdellah Lehzam
72. Spain: University of Cordoba, AnaFalu
73. Netherlands: University of Twente, Jeroen Verplanke
74. Bangladesh: Centre for Urban Studies, N. Islam
75. USA: The New School, R. MacDonald
76. Sudan: Building Road Research Institute/University of Khartoum, Zuhel El Tayeb Awad
77. Germany: BTU Cottbus, Frank Schwartze
78. France: ENSAPP, David Elalouf
79. UK: Middlesex University Business School, Corporate and partner engagement, Marion McGowan
80. Italy: Universita Luau di Venezia, Marcello Balbo
81. Portugal: Centre for Social Studies - University of Coimbra, Giovanni Allegretti
82. Singapore/Switzerland: Future Cities Lab/Singapore ETH Centre, Stephen Cairns
83. Czech Republic: Architecture Institute in Prague, Regina Luokotova
84. Rwanda: Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, Ilaria Boniburini
85. France: Institut d'Urbanisme – Grenoble, Sylvie Lacroux
86. Art and Design Department Zayedlini, Adina Hempel
87. Italy: ENEL foundation, Renata Hele
88. Norway: NTNU, Ingrid T. Odegard
89. Singapore: National University of Singapore/Centre for Sustainable Asian Cities, Melissa Reese
90. Singapore: National University of Singapore, Malone-Lee Lai-Choo
91. USA: Columbia University, Anna Rubbo
92. Germany: Leibniz University Hannover, Christina Milos
93. Australia: University of Queensland, John Minnery
94. Sudan: National Center for Research, Nawal Ibrahim
95. Trinidad and Tobago: University of the West Indies, Michelle Mycoo
96. Sweden: International Center for Local Democracy, Lena Johansson de Chateau
97. India: CRPT University, Utpal Sharma
98. New Zealand: University of Auckland, Dory Reeves
99. USA: New School, Miodrag Mitrasinovic

## Appendix 4: Suggestions for Hub focus

The following list is a compilation of the suggestions from the group exercise.

### *Outputs and deliverables*

- › Policy Adjustments
- › Professional development (architects/planners)
- › Shift in Approach to architectural and planning thinking/prioritizing
- › South-south cooperation, for example between University of Auckland and universities in the Pacific
- › Joint training programmes
- › Local public employees refreshed about UN-Habitat themes
- › Improved experience exchange
- › Effective knowledge base
- › Templates and open models
- › Improving outdoor thermal comfort
- › Guidelines
- › Improved urban codes
- › Collaborative research projects between different universities and research institutes
- › Building of a large database concerning the selected thematic areas of research
- › Opportunities for post-graduate studies between partners and hubs
- › A common database covering all aspects related to urban development, including food and nutrition.
- › A coordinated action at UN level on urban future
- › Comparative applied research
- › Guidelines for housing policies
- › E-learning courses
- › Collaborative and accessible databases of city data and best practices, case studies of city urban development practices
- › Knowledge sharing
- › Strong network
- › Have a real impact on people's life (monitoring)
- › Joint research activities
- › Joint course offerings (distance learning through web)
- › Stronger engagement of science in decision making
- › Help local initiatives to upgrade their scientific level
- › Train and engage young scientists into action
- › Healthy communities
- › Equity and better future life
- › Rehabilitation of urban centres
- › Participation in planning

### *Topics*

Complete input	Derived list of themes
› <b>Design and planning action research, participatory design</b>	○ Urban Planning
› <b>Regenerating urban structures, places, spaces, integrated approaches to urban regeneration</b>	○ Urban Regeneration
	○ Urban Space
	○ Urban Models

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› between shrinking and growing cities.</li> <li>› Urban modeling/urban metabolism models (including all resources streams in the city; water, energy, people, goods, mobility)</li> <li>› Urban planning and design (globalization, urban forum, governance. Compact city, networks. Social changes, gender, secure city.)</li> <li>› Urban planning, mobility. Health and environment. Local/city government. Urban planning, housing, slum upgrading, environmental risk.</li> <li>› Safer cities</li> <li>› Information and communication technologies which can be used in the public space.</li> <li>› Land and planning, natural hazards. Historical development of urban policies. Housing for marginalized groups of people.</li> <li>› Asian cities. sustainability indicators/benchmarking cities. High density development</li> <li>› Industrial area planning. Housing and real estate. Urban regional planning.</li> <li>› Housing, landscape, community, education, health, social and economic indicators.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gender, Secure city</li> <li>○ Mobility</li> <li>○ Safer cities</li> <li>○ Natural hazards</li> <li>○ Urban technology and public space</li> <li>○ Urban density and shared spaces</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Multi-stakeholder planning and decision making processes. To understand and identify those processes that contribute to win-win outcomes from local and metropolitan planning, from large scale urban developments and events, and from major infrastructure projects.</li> <li>› Training methods and tools for local governments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Training</li> <li>○ Decision making process</li> <li>○ Multi stakeholder planning</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Food security. Urban-rural relationships, waste, urban agriculture &gt; building design &gt; planning</li> <li>› Food systems for city supply, including food and nutrition security.</li> <li>› The role and place of urban agriculture</li> <li>› Environmental issues (green economy)</li> <li>› The link with rural communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Food Security</li> <li>○ Food systems</li> <li>○ Urban agriculture</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Urban Infrastructure rehabilitation as it relates to disaster risk reduction</li> <li>› Climate Change</li> <li>› Reducing cities socioecological footprint, priorities of land, water and fossil energy (engaging a scientific/knowledge partnership with: CNRS, IRD, UVSQ, UCAD, UNIGE, UQAR, USP, UNEP, RZO, under TASK (Territorial Approach to Global Change)</li> <li>› Gender and women empowerment, building on work with gender and urban planning</li> <li>› Pedagogy for planning and multi-disciplinary learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Urban Infrastructure</li> <li>○ Climate Change</li> <li>○ Equal planning</li> <li>○ Pedagogy and outreach</li> </ul>

### **Criteria for priority selection**

- › Deliverability > what can actually be implemented?
- › Potential Impact > need-based
- › Fundability > How will it be paid for?
- › Chose themes that concern the 7 identified areas of UN-Habitat
- › Chose themes that are represented many times
- › Prioritize according to national and global priorities
- › Demand-driven approach: members of the HUB decide
- › Good distribution by world region
- › Support for new research
- › Inter-disciplinary teams
- › Engagement with stakeholders
- › Subjects that have an impact on poverty reduction
- › Local/city governance HUB needed to deliver and advice outputs of other themed HUBS
- › Link themes with current practice, so HUB findings can be easily adopted
- › Social problems of communities

- › Problems faced in many places
- › Human health and wealth
- › Economic impact
- › Environmental impact
- › Improving outdoor thermal comfort
- › Support action research in concrete territories, worldwide
- › Integrate research in participatory open processes
- › Demand expressed by local authorities and actors
- › Slum upgrading
- › Problem driven

## Appendix 5: Notes from post Universities Roundtable meeting

### Hub Suggestions:

- › Dory Reeves, University of Auckland: Hub in the Pacific
- › Shuaib Lwasa: East African Climate Change
- › Makerere University: Hub with a regional focus (East Africa)
- › Alain Retiere: Territorial Approach to Global Change
- › Lara Gibson: Urban Governance
- › University of Hannover: Landscape, infrastructure and informal conditions:
- › Cairo University: Housing and slum upgrading, focus on Cairo
- › American University in Cairo: Slum Upgrading
- › Suzanne Speak: Food Security
- › Michelle Mycoo: Safer Cities
- › Mario Delos Reyes: DRR

From the Initial discussion the following Hubs were formulated:

- › ***Regional Hub:***

Dory Reeves, University of Auckland: Pacific Hub

- › ***Combined Thematic Hub: Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Territorial Approach for Sustainability***

Shuaib Lwasa, Makerere University: East African Climate Change  
 Hub with a regional focus (East Africa) starting with small practical topics like climate change, in discussion with university of Philippines.

Mario Delos Reyes: DRR  
 Already collaboration with University of Newcastle and University of Rotterdam.

Alain Retiere: Territorial Approach  
 Territorial Approach to Global Change: 35 universities (globally) focusing on sustainable territories, neighbourhoods and cities. Action oriented and demand driven. Work in partnerships with cities alliances.

*Contact: Shuaib Lwasa*

Discussions around the change of approach to research in terms of disasters and climate change. Agreeing on making it inclusive.

- › ***Combined Thematic Hub: Urban Informality, Housing and Slum Upgrading***

University of Hannover: Informal Settlements and slums

Landscape, infrastructure and informal conditions: making connections with other professionals interested in informal conditions. Possibility of creating a broader hub

Cairo University: [Cairo Housing](#)  
 Housing and slum upgrading. Help south-south cooperation. Global scope. Northern universities help with ideas and support, southern have problem at hand.

American University in Cairo: [Slum Upgrading](#)  
 Possible connections with other initiatives.

*Contact: Christina Milos*

Global. Possibility of having subgroups; regional, topical. Still discussing this. Benefits of having the hub: research, policy, involve students. IHS, Cairo University, Hannover University

› ***Combined Thematic Hub: Urban Agriculture and food security***

Suzanne Speak: [Food Security](#)  
 Particular interest in urban agriculture and planning.

*Contact: Suzanne Speak*

Penn State is running conference in 2013, asked for Suzanne to contribute to that. Possibly involving non academic partners. Get 4-5 institutions ready and join the conference.

› ***Thematic Hub: Urban Governance***

Lara Gibson: [Urban Governance](#)  
 London Metropolitan University: Sustainable Urban Governance. Best practices, skills needed, mor interested partners in the UK.

*Contact: Lara Gibson*

Gather case studies of good urban governance, looking specifically of patterns of working and tools of governance. Tools include skills of people involve, information technologies involved, such as data sets, maps and apps in making decision in governance. Collaboration with Chile governance, UK universities need to link with other work streams within the UN.

› ***Thematic Hub: Future Cities***

*Contact: Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy, University of South Florida,*

This Hub has already been set up (and was presented at the Roundtable and was hence not discussed at the post Roundtable meeting) Urban Futures Habitat Partner University Initiative Hub, led by the Patel School for International Sustainability, University of South Florida. New approaches to urban development and integrated resource management for emerging cities (focus on Africa).

It was agreed that the next step for developing the Hubs would be to formulate concept notes describing their focus and outputs further, to be developed into expressions of interest and circulated to the membership.



## **Appendix 6: Photos**









