

**Dialogue on  
Sustainable Urban Development through Expanding Equitable Access  
to Land and Housing, Basic Services and Infrastructure**

Wednesday, 13 April 2011  
Conference Room 1

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Briefing**

The Dialogue is part of the high-level segment of the twenty-third session of the Governing Council. Governments, local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners are expected to discuss issues regarding sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure in the context of sustainable development and, thereby, contribute to the upcoming discussions during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20).

*The theme paper for the Dialogue is available as Item 6 of the provisional agenda of the Governing Council (HSP/GC/23/4).*

**MORNING SESSION (09:30-12:30)**

**“Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing”**

**Chair:** The President of the Governing Council

***About the Session***

Land is critical to the delivery of housing, infrastructure and services at scale. The issue of land needs to be tackled so as to give urban citizens and especially the poor and vulnerable groups equitable access to a decent living space and livelihood opportunities. Access to land is of limited use if it is not accompanied by policies, laws, systems that ensure security of tenure. Empirical evidence and experience around the world have shown that these are best realized when inclusive and innovative land policies are in place and implemented within a good land governance framework. Efforts to eradicate poverty and enhance sustainable urban development become futile if attaining equitable access to land and ensuring security of tenure to all are ignored as these could translate into inefficient and inadequate provision of almost all public goods. In an urban setting, promoting efficient use of land with a view to stimulating compact urban growth in existing urban space and promoting optimal acquisition of land at the urban fringe are critical to prevent unmanaged urban sprawl, create space for well-planned provision of infrastructure and services (e.g., dedicated bus lanes that facilitate mobility and efficient energy use) and thereby help manage the effects of climate change.

Housing plays a central role in economic development by generating employment, eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable green building practices. The forward and backward linkages of the housing sector with other parts of the economy makes it a powerful instrument to boost sustainable urbanization. Housing accounts for nearly 20 per cent of capital formation in a country's gross domestic product. Access to decent and adequate housing is hindered by inadequate regulatory frameworks, cumbersome land delivery systems, unaffordable housing finance and low income and affordability problems. Despite the fact that the right to adequate housing has been universally recognized accessibility by large parts of the urban populations remain problematic. Slum upgrading and prevention programs enables Governments to expand accessibility to housing at lower costs and contributes to the containment of cities' urban footprints and thus contributing to sustainable development.

The themes of green economy in the context of sustainable urban development and urban poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development, as they relate to land and housing, will be integrated into the dialogue.

### ***Key questions to be addressed***

- 1.** What are the obstacles facing land policy development and implementation in the delivery of housing? How can pro-poor land delivery systems facilitate access to serviced land and housing at scale and prevent slum formation?
- 2.** What are the main principles for sustainable urban development? How should sustainability be envisioned in relation to expanding equitable access to land and housing?
- 3.** What governance systems facilitate the integration and coordination of planning with the delivery of serviced land and housing? What are the key factors for success? What are the key constraints?
- 4.** What are the implications of the green economy for sustainable urban development and expanding access to land and housing and urban poverty eradication? What roles do national and local governments play in promoting sustainable urban development and urban poverty eradication and in strengthening relevant institutional frameworks?
- 5.** Cities, city regions and city networks in various regions can choose from among various strategies for achieving a green economy, using new urban development models and technologies while expanding equitable access to land and housing. What challenges need to be overcome to achieve this?
- 6.** National governments can help cities and local governments to work together to achieve sustainable urban development by helping them to think and plan outside of their jurisdictional boxes and to identify innovative governance solutions to their common concerns. What challenges need to be overcome to achieve this?

### ***Morning Session Program***

#### **“Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing”**

<b>09:30 - 09:40</b>	Welcoming Statement by the President of the Governing Council and Chair of the Dialogue
<b>09:40 - 10:00</b>	Statement by Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT
<b>10:00 - 10:10</b>	Statement by Ms. H. Elizabeth Thompson, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Coordinator of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development for Rio + 20.
<b>10:10 – 10:20</b>	Statement by H.E. Ana Maria Sampaio Fernandes, Permanent Representative of the Government of Brazil to UN-HABITAT
<b>10:20 - 11:00</b>	Presentation by Panelists <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hon. M. Ahmed Taoufiq HEJIRA, Minister, Ministère de l'Habitat, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Aménagement de l'Espace, Maroc</li><li>Hon. Peter Goetz, President, Global Parliamentarians for Habitat</li><li>Ms. Sheila Patel, Chair, Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)</li><li>Mr. Hugo Priemus, Professor, the Delft University of Technology, Netherlands</li></ol>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	Comments from the floor
<b>11:30 – 11:50</b>	Contributions by panelists in response to an invitation by the Chair <i>(The Chair invites Panelists to comment from their perspectives, linking and highlighting the issues and implications on the main themes of land and housing vis-a-vis (1) the green economy in the context of sustainable urban development and urban</i>

	<i>poverty eradication, and (2) institutional framework for sustainable development.)</i>
<b>11:50 – 12:35</b>	Discussion
<b>12:35 – 12:40</b>	Closing remarks by the Chair

**AFTERNOON SESSION (15:00-18:00)**

**“Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to basic services and infrastructure”**

**Chair:** The President of the Governing Council

***About the Session***

Basic services and infrastructure are essential to sustainable urban development. Access to water and waste disposal are determining factors in locating human agglomerations and affect their growth and development. Basic services and infrastructure are important in the development of healthy populations with a good quality of life. Basic services include safe drinking water and sanitation, the management of solid and liquid waste, efficient and safe transport, and sustainable energy.

Basic services, housing and land are inextricably linked. Designing access to basic services affects the spatial location of land, housing and infrastructure. Planning and financing basic services, including safe water, waste management, transport and energy, must be part of land and housing provision inspired by sustainable urban development.

The themes of green economy in the context of sustainable urban development and urban poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable urban development, as they relate to basic services and infrastructure (water and sanitation, transport, energy), will be integrated into the dialogue.

***Key questions to be addressed***

- 1.** What are the obstacles facing the delivery of basic services and infrastructure? How can pro-poor systems facilitate the delivery of basic services and infrastructure and prevent slum formation?
- 2.** What are the main principles for sustainable urban development? How should sustainability be envisioned in relation to expanding equitable access to basic services and infrastructure?
- 3.** What governance mechanisms facilitate the integration and coordination of planning, delivery and management systems for water, sanitation, transport and energy? What are the key factors for success? What are the key constraints?
- 4.** What are the implications of the green economy in the context of sustainable urban development and urban poverty eradication? What roles do national and local governments play in promoting sustainable urban development and urban poverty eradication and in strengthening relevant institutional frameworks?
- 5.** Cities, city regions and city networks in various regions can choose from among various strategies for achieving a green economy, using new urban development models and technologies while expanding equitable access to basic services and infrastructure. What challenges need to be overcome to achieve this?
- 6.** National governments can help cities and local governments to work together to achieve sustainable urban development by helping them to think and plan outside of their jurisdictional boxes and to identify innovative governance solutions to their common concerns. What challenges need to be overcome to achieve this?

*Afternoon Session Program*

**“Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to basic services and infrastructure”**

<b>15:00 - 15:05</b>	Statement by the President of the Governing Council and Chair of the Dialogue
<b>15:05 – 15:45</b>	Presentation by Panelists <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Hon. Vincent Karega, Minister for Infrastructure of the Republic of Rwanda</li><li>2. Hon. S.M. G. Jayaratne, Secretary Ministry of Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities, Sri Lanka.</li><li>3. His Worship M. A. Masunda, Mayor of Harare and Co-President of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)</li><li>4. Mr. Stéphane Quéré, Co-Chair, Urban Infrastructure Initiative, World Business Council for Sustainable Development</li></ol>
<b>15:45 – 16:15</b>	Comments from the floor
<b>16:15 – 16:35</b>	Contributions by Panelists <i>(The Chair invites Panelists to comment from their perspectives, linking and highlighting the issues and implications on the main themes of basic services and infrastructure vis-a-vis (1) the green economy in the context of sustainable urban development and urban poverty eradication, and (2) institutional framework for sustainable development.)</i>
<b>16:35 -17:15</b>	Discussion
<b>17:15 - 17:30</b>	Closing Statement / Highlights messages of both Dialogues, Dr. Esther Brimmer, Assistant Secretary of State, Government of the United States of America
<b>17:30 - 17:55</b>	Report of the Dialogue by the Rapporteur <i>(Drawing together all the major aspects of the two dialogue sessions, key messages and the recommendations being discussed.)</i>
<b>17:55 – 18:00</b>	Closing Statement by the President of the Governing Council and Chair of the Dialogue