



June 14, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Egloff
Chair, UN Habitat Ad Hoc Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement Policy
Switzerland Deputy Ambassador to Kenya
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Ambassador Egloff:

The General Assembly of Partners (GAP) is submitting this statement on the Proposed Structure for UN Habitat Stakeholder Engagement Policy for review by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Stakeholder Policy.¹

1. Thank you for this clear proposal that outlines the key elements of the policy. We are very supportive of this effort and encourage you to continue to craft a policy that would be innovative and fit for 21st century global governance.
2. We offer few specific comments on some items.
3. **Item 2. Purpose of the Policy** We suggest that the Ad Hoc Working Group include a draft statement of purpose that might say:
 - a. To foster inclusive, transparent decision-making related to global sustainable urban development through timely and meaningful dialogue among members states and stakeholders
4. **Item 3 Guiding Principles** We suggest the following amendments adding verbs and clarifications:
 - a. "Decision-making with Member States: to "Contribute to decision-making with Member States"
 - b. "Participation of Stakeholders..." Arrange systematic processes for participation"
 - c. "Access to information" to "Provide access to information simultaneous with Member States"
 - d. "Respect for diversity..." "Ensure respect for"

¹ The General Assembly of Partners (GAP), organized in 2014 in preparation for Habitat III, is composed of 17 Partner Constituent Groups representing more than 1,100 unique organizations. It is an independent non-profit organization incorporated in New York State in 2017. It serves as a platform for ECOSOC accredited and non-accredited organizations to present consensus positions on the implementation of global agreements and to support multi-stakeholder partnerships for the localization of *Agenda 2030*, the *Paris Agreement*, *New Urban Agenda*, and other UN initiated activities. See <https://generalassemblyofpartners.com/about-us>



- e. *We do not understand this principle: “Local and national Ownership” “Recognize differences among nations regarding ownership?”*
- f. *“Result oriented” to “Deliver clear communication of results emanating from specified engagement processes to key parties”*
- g. *“Equality and non-discrimination...” to “Support equality....”*

5. Item 6 Engagement of UN Habitat

- a. This section would benefit from a statement about developing strong linkages among activities designed to improve communication and collaboration among stakeholders, Member States and UN Habitat. For example, it calls for the organization of a Global Stakeholder Forum in conjunction with the UN Habitat Assembly. This statement evokes several questions: Who and how would the agenda be set for the Forum (would it parallel the agenda of the Assembly?) Would there be any opportunities for the Forum to suggest additional topics for the Assembly to consider? How would the results of the Forum be conveyed to Member States? While this framework should not specify the details, it should call for a process for ensuring linkages
- b. This section would benefit from a clarifying statement relating to the mobilization of stakeholders. Two examples of current mobilization might be reviewed:
 - i. SAGE: is a UN-Habitat appointed body of stakeholders who are instructed that they do NOT represent any constituency group but are chosen for the expertise, activism, and interest in the work of UN Habitat. The co-chairs are also appointed. This group serves an important function of advising the Executive Director. It is not self-organized and does not claim to be representative other than having geographic, occupational, and gender diversity.
 - ii. World Urban Campaign is a UN Habitat supported group roughly organized around UN’s major groups and other stakeholders’ rubric. with an advocacy mandate. Its membership is voluntary, but voting is restricted to members that have a memorandum of understanding with UN Habitat – this involves a lengthy procedure.
 - iii. Article 128 of the *New Urban Agenda* offers guidance for thinking about precedents for shaping an innovative, 21st Century Stakeholder Engagement Policy. ² It suggests building on the preparatory process

² We will encourage UN-Habitat, other United Nations programmes and agencies, and other relevant stakeholders to generate evidence-based and practical guidance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, in close collaboration with Member States, local authorities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as well as through the mobilization of experts. ***We will build on the legacy of the Habitat III conference and the lessons learned from its preparatory process***, including the regional and thematic meetings. We note, in this context, the valuable contributions of, inter alia, the World Urban Campaign, the General Assembly of Partners for Habitat III and the Global Land Tool Network.



for Habitat III. Regarding stakeholders, this highly participatory process created a structure to help shape the Member States' decisions embodied in the *NUA* that could be adapted for the Habitat Assembly and the World Urban Forum.

1. Policy Units composed of diverse stakeholders asked to assemble evidence-based policy recommendations that fed into the *New Urban Agenda*
 2. Regional and thematic conferences whose results also fed into the *New Urban Agenda*
 3. General Assembly of Partners, a self-organized group of 17 partner constituent groups that the Habitat III secretariat invited to
 - a. Participate in the policy units and conferences (adaptation: could serve as a source for participants in UN Habitat consultations, expert group meetings etc.)
 - b. Organize the roundtables and assemblies associated with Habitat III (adaptation: could work with UN Habitat to organize WUF roundtables and assemblies)
 - c. Offer consensus positions at Habitat III (adaptation: could offer consensus positions to member states on matters related to the Executive Board meetings and the Habitat Assembly)
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