STRENGTHENING
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR A NEW **AFRICA URBAN AGENDA**

REPORT OF THE
TAKE-OFF CONFERENCE

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NAIROBI, KENYA

UN@HABITAT

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ACRONYMS
AND ABBREVIATIONS

AfDB	Africa Development Bank
AMCHUD	African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development
AU	African Union
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
GA	General Assembly
GC	Governing Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HAPs	Habitat Agenda Partners
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UCLGA	United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
WUF	World Urban Forum

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Referring to the First United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I), held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, and which formed the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements as well as on the Habitat II Conference which was held in 1996, the United Nations General Assembly has, through Resolution 66/207, mandated the United Nations Secretary General, to convene the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016. The General Assembly (GA), by Resolution 67/216, has further spelt out the modalities, preparatory activities and the format of the upcoming conference.

In order to ensure that there would be effective engagement by African countries in the process of generating an 'Urban Agenda' for the 21st century which recognizes the ever-changing dynamics of human civilization, the Governments of Nigeria and Ghana have committed to facilitate an active, evidence-based and highly inclusive Preparatory Process for Habitat II, with all stakeholders from across the continent in atendance, through a project entitled the 'Strengthening Partnerships for a New Africa Urban Agenda'. Arising from the above, the Take-off Conference on Strengthening Partnerships for a New Africa Urban Agenda was held at the Gigiri Complex of the United Nations Offices, Nairobi, Kenya, from the 4th to the 6th of December, 2013, under the theme: Imperatives for an Africa Urban Agenda.

The main objectives of the Conference consisted in:

• Identifying key imperatives for designing an Africa Urban Agenda based on the "New Pact: Optimizing the Urban Advantage";

• Exploring ways of strengthening partnerships between state and non-state actors in the pursuit of a new urban agenda for Africa;

• Introducing the "Strengthening Partnerships" Project, reviewing the road map for implementation as well as the roles of various partners in achieving the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the national and regional preparations for Habitat III;

• Providing an overview of the tools needed in addressing priority areas for action.

The project supports efforts by African Ministers of housing and urban development, especially the pact on optimising an urban advantage adopted, as in April 2012. This pact identifies four key areas of action as follows: : (i)To reassert the role of cities and towns in national development; (ii)To move away from rigid planning

and from creating low densities and long distances, as well as creating jobs and opportunities for the youth; (iii) To undertake Institutional and Legal Reforms - synchronizing linkages, developing complementarities and interactive synergy , creating more solid and flexible institutions, capacity building, reducing the urban divide, initiating legal Reforms; (iv) To learn to do things together - recreate and reorganize a more prosperous society for sustainable development.

Papers presented covered topics such as Taking stock of Urbanisation in Africa, the Global Perspective, the Continent's Long term Vision, etc. and included policy suggestions and recommendations. The final report of the Conference had the main objective of capturing discussions as held by participants; it has consequently been organised in such a way that the broad themes of the Conference are reported in a sequential manner, along the thematic topics chosen, with main issues and recommendations highlighted for the benefit of the reader.

3. SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Delegates taking part on Africa Urban Agenda conference in Nairobi, Kenya 2013
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3.1: Opening of the Technical Segment

In his introductory remarks, Mr. Alioune Badiane, Acting Director, Programme Division, UN-Habitat, noted that the world was looking towards the emergence of an Urban Africa and as such the need for the continent to come together in order to form very strong partnerships for the development of Africa could not be over emphasized. Due to its peculiar circumstances, he went on, Africa needed to stand up to face the challenge of a rapidly urbanizing Africa. And to do so, it had to enter into partnership with other development partners like Cities Alliance, ADB, UNECA and others. He commended the Governments of Nigeria and Ghana for their support to the process of promoting the cause of the New African Urban Agenda as part of the preparatory process for Habitat III.

Dr. Aisa Kacyira-Kirabo, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat, then welcomed dignitaries to the meeting. Their large number, in excess of 100 delegates, she asserted, underscored the importance they attached to

this Conference. She noted that although Africa was the least urbanized of the continents, it was nevertheless the most rapidly urbanizing of all of them in this century. Unfortunately, she also added, Africa's urbanization has created large slums in our cities while the problems of urbanization were not only sectoral but holistic and went beyond housing or infrastructure; there was therefore a need to translate this growth of African cities into engines of economic and social transformation, and to establish strong institution frameworks as well as responsive legislation that go beyond policies.

Hon. Daudi Migereko, Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Uganda, on taking the floor for his opening remarks, noted that the meeting would facilitate discussions on how to strengthen partnerships for a New Africa Urban Agenda. He hoped that the conference would outline the aims and contents of the agenda which should respond to both the current and future needs of the people of Africa, given that the continent is turning out to be the center of development, and for that reason, the implications of this urbanization trend needs to be looked into. He concluded his remarks with a promise that Uganda will be an effective and active partner in this initiative, while playing a key role in the expected outcomes of the present Conference on Strengthening Partnerships for a New Africa.

Mr. Thomas Melin, from the External Relations Division of UN-Habitat, gave an overview of the conference while discussing some of its expected outcomes. He noted that the present urbanization phenomenon has never been seen before. As such, this development was unique and challenging and it was therefore important to capture the opportunity that it presented to the African continent; this meant looking at new horizons in terms of approach, actors, etc. Because Africa is pioneering this unique agenda, he concluded, it must be an inclusive agenda, taking along all the shades of opinion by all communities, both in terms of location and socio-economic status. It is hoped that this will set in motion a series of activities at regional, national and local levels, he concluded.

3.2: Taking Stock of Urbanization in Africa

Mr. Joseph Guiebo, of the Regional Office for Africa at UN-Habitat, welcomed participants and speakers and introduced discussants to the meeting. He briefly outlined the expectations for the session, in the context of the experiences faced by the continent in its urbanization process**.**

Thereafter, in her keynote address **on imperatives for a holistic urbanization in Africa,** Prof. Susan Parnell, Africa Center for Cities, affirmed that urban growth and urbanization will shape the development challenges of the 21st Century. To illustrate her point, she mentioned that some indicators show that there was a consistent and a centered pattern of growth of cities over the last decade and that this trend was likely to continue. She also noted that there were competing views on Africa's urbanization in relation to urban bias, migration and urban growth, etc. There was therefore a need to emphasise policy responses that will improve urban planning and governance. In that regard, it was her view that while there was no single

process for urbanization, global environmental change remained the key driver for urban change and raised fundamental questions about the fate of urban centres. She noted that although currently most Africans live in rural areas, the urban population was predicted to double within 20 years and by 2050 the majority of Africans will live in cities. Cities probably offer the very best opportunity for poverty reduction, economic growth and sustainability. It was in this context that international, national and local governments, as well as civil society at large, have begun to redefine what the growth process should be. In that respect, there was a massive shift to re-embrace the idea of urban planning, focusing on improved governance, introducing urban scales, welfare regimes, tax, and incentives for growth, economic generation; ending urban bias and influx controls; building sustainable, resilient and equitable urban places.

It was for these reasons that decisions have to be made as to where to put our money. Likewise, politically, we have to understand what the levers of change are in each of these dimensions in order to move the urban agenda to the forefront of the development agenda. These variables are:

(i) Demographic - Is Africa's urban moment a unique African urban trajectory?; (ii) Environmental - Are African cities especially vulnerable?; (iii) Economic -The new middle class and the urban dividend; (iv) Social -urban poverty and food insecurity; (v) Physical -Infrastructure and service needs and opportunities; and (vi) Problems in relation to governance -in order to address issues in conjunction with anti-urbanism, weak sub-national states and complex governance as well.

She then concluded her presentation by stating that the Urban Agenda has to be taken much more seriously than it has ever been because urban growth and urbanisation will shape the development challenges of the 21st century. Establishing an urban agenda for Africa is imperative, but competing pressures mean it will not be easy and will need considerable political commitment.

Introducing the "New Pact - Towards Habitat III – Optimizing the Urban Advantage", Ms. Edna Deimi Tobi, Deputy Director, Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Nigeria, reviewed the emergence, vision and achievements of the Africa Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) under the auspices of the African Union, as well as the strategies adopted to date to address Africa's urbanisation challenge. These include its Enhanced Framework of Implementation, the Strategy Document for an Urbanization Transformation Agenda as well as the AMCHUD Pact for Optimizing the Urban Advantage which is built on four Pillars, namely: (i)Transformative National Urban Policy, (ii) Compact Cities at a Human Scale, (iii)Undertaking Institutional and Legal Reforms and (iv)Learning to Do Things Together. It set out a framework to optimize the Urban Advantage for Habitat III and established imperatives required for Optimizing on the New Pact for Africa's sustainable development. These include greater innovation by African countries in planning approaches that reflect home grown solutions; broadening of public participation in the process of budget formulation, policy making, programme delivery, monitoring and evaluation, as well as greater political commitment by governments.

Building in Kibera slum. Nairobi, Kenya.
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Prof. Aloysious Mosha, University of Botswana, Gaborone, as first discussant noted that most African governments have very weak policies for addressing urbanization issues and that they focus more on rural rather than urban agendas. Most of the operational regulations were outdated, as they were carryovers from the colonial era of the 1940's and 50's, he added, while observing that most countries lack the technical and human capacity in urban planning to run the process through. For the future political intervention therefore, new partnerships, innovation and economic development, strategic planning and promotion of the Urban Agenda at national, regional and local levels were essential; there was also the need to generate data and a knowledge platform as well as a well-established institutional framework.

The second discussant, Mr. Marc Zoungrana, Mayor of Dapelgo and Secretary-General, Association of Municipalities of Burkina Faso, on his part, noted that the three great urbanization challenges facing the continent were (i) management of urban growth in a sustainable manner, (ii) managing the growth of cities while reducing urban poverty, and (iii) managing the spread of informal settlements in urban areas. Governments should therefore increase their allocation and contribution to urban issues, while there should also be greater support for Local Governments; Public and Private Partnerships.

Mr. Wafula Nabutola, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), was of the view that there was need to invest in people and the environment. The Private sector, as partners, would seek to support such an agenda with its products.

3.3: Institutional and Legal Reforms

In the segment on Institutional and Legal Reforms, Hon. Nancy Abisai, Member of the East African Legislative Assembly, Kenya, in her introduction to the session, acknowledged that the Conference was taking place at the most appropriate time and when most of the countries in East Africa had signed several protocols and articles on cooperation. Most of these countries were equally undergoing constitutional reforms. She further noted that there were challenges relating to the absence of an approved legal framework and lack of political commitment to addressing challenges of urbanization. And yet to succeed, urbanization ought to be made a priority. She also observed that hardly any questions are asked in parliament or bills on urbanization discussed. She highlighted the need to pay more attention to what happens at the national level when discussing urbanization challenges in Africa.

On **Urban Legislation, Legal imperatives for managing urban growth and development,** Hon. Sani Umar Kalgo, Chair, House Committee on Housing and Habitat, Nigeria, informed the meeting that the major issue confronting urbanization in Africa was the challenge of borrowed legislation. Achieving sustainable urban growth and development would require efficient, effective and workable institutional structures. Only an integrated approach (or systems) to planning, administration and management can enable the achievement of meaningful and sustainable growth and development. In Nigeria, he added, very strong federal legislations were being required in order to facilitate integrated planning and to ensure federal assistance to States and Local Governments for the protection of lands of critical, economic and social value. The present democratic government was pursuing a policy overhaul of land administration by setting up a Presidential Committee on Land Reform which recently submitted an Interim Report on its activities. Legislation was imperative to guide growth and development but such laws must necessarily have a vibrant framework, an implementation plan and an institutional structure if they were to be effective. In the future, new laws must be enacted to devote more attention to the process of urban and regional planning rather than on development-control machinery. These institutions and establishments must also be provided with appropriate resources to efficiently and effectively achieve sustainable growth and development.

During the discussion on Country experiences that followed the presentations, Mrs. Levina Owusu, Chief Planning Officer at the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana, informed the meeting that in practice, in Ghana, urban development was the responsibility of the Local Government as provided by the Act of 1993, whereby Town and Country Planning Department is given the responsibility for the development of urban areas. However, there was no legislative institution on land management and the revision of the 1945 Ordinance has not been successful. As a result, areas have to be declared before planning take place in Ghana, while developments issues were still being approached in a sectoral manner.

It was at this juncture that Mr. Moussa Sissoko, Coordinateur de la Cellule "Villes du Mali sans Bidonvilles", Bamako, Mali, noted that in his own country, there were laws meant to foster private sector involvement. These were general Decrees on urbanization seeking to promote developers and eradicate slums, together with a Decree establishing the Ministry for Town and Urban Planning, with a vision to boost urban development. Other policies deal with sanitation, clean water supply, etc.

For Mr. Michael Charlette, Personal Assistant to the Minister of Land Use and Housing, Seychelles, with a population of just 80,000 over 450 square kilometers, was a comparatively small country in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The responsibility for Town and Country planning was under the Ministry of Land Use and Housing, which mandate is currently being reviewed to give it more autonomy. The greatest challenge of urbanization is climate change.

Mr. Sipliant Takougang, of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in Yaoundé, Cameroon, noted on his part that Cameroon was fast urbanizing and yet very few urban centers had development plans. As a result, there were several unplanned developments in most cities while there was a lack of technical capacity. Currently, land ownership laws were being reviewed. However, there were Laws and Ordinances that specify planning issues and development programmes. Urban training centres were to be set up in 2014.

During discussion time, the Conference learnt that planning in Nigeria was on the residual list rather than on the concurrent list. This implied that the Federal Government could not legislate on planning issues, but could only come up with policies. Moreover, in Nigeria, there are city regions as opposed to the cities as is common in many countries. Essentially, it is like a city merging into another without defined boundaries. It was further noted that urbanization was here to stay though the means of making cities sustainable was the major concern as data were either not available or outdated thus making planning virtually impossible. Finally, the Conference noted that while concentration was on urban areas most of the people in Africa were living in rural areas and wondered whether there was a way to reverse the trend of immigration from urban to rural.

3.4: High Level Segment Discussions

In his introduction to the session on High Level Segment, the Chairman of the panel, H.E. Ambassador Martin M. Kimani, Permanent Representative of Kenya to UN-Habitat and UNEP, recalled that fellow rural citizens have their lives and expectations based on the performance and dynamics of urban areas, and that slums were great areas of investments opportunities.

In his Keynote Address**, The Vision for a New Urban Agenda,** Dr. Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat, made it clear that urbanisation was a product of man's activities and could be positive or negative. Positive or performing urbanization produces wealth and healthy living for the society, empowers participants, citizens and takes care of the needs of local residents, participants were told before being asked to use the opportunity given by the Conference to African nations to share ideas in preparation for HABITAT III, in 2016.

While taking the floor to discuss **Partnership as a key success factor to achieving the New Urban Agenda,** Architect Musa M. Sada, Overseeing Minister of Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Nigeria, noted that Africa has to plan ahead because of its ongoing development. The commitment and strong political will of African leadership to ensure allocation of resources and clear designation of responsibilities were therefore critical in articulating an enduring Africa Urban Agenda. However, because local government was weak in Africa, it was essential to empower the local government structure for effective management and monitoring of the

Africa Urban Agenda, which is the platform by which Africa can come forward and speak with a common voice, raise the quality of life and unity of its citizenry, as well as promote good governance. Coming together was the beginning, working together was progress, and thinking together was the success.

In his keynote address entitled **'Demonstrating Leadership for the New Africa Urban Agenda',** Hon. Akwasi Opong-Fosu, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana, was of the view that only actions drawn from good governance and supported by the people can lead to an Africa Urban Agenda for growth and development. Limited knowledge has curtailed the implementation of policies in Africa. There was therefore a strong need for capacity building amongst African nations which will be the basis for an Africa urban agenda. The leadership provided by Nigeria was commendable and other countries were challenged to follow suit. In that respect, he announced a contribution by his government in support of strengthening partnerships at a local level within the framework of the presidential initiative of an Africa Urban Agenda led by the Presidents of Ghana and Nigeria. To that effect, a grant of $500,000 had been donated to reflect the commitment of Ghana to the project.

As for Ms. Mariam El Maawy, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya, the development of a national urban policy to mitigate the effects of rapid urbanisation and implementation of such strategies as development of infrastructure in urban areas, reduction of electricity costs and execution of slum upgrading programmes were examples of what was been done in Kenya.

📷 *Nairobi, Kenya*
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Her statement was followed by the Presentation of the Strengthening Partnerships for a New African Urban Agenda project by Mrs. Mariam Yunusa, Coordinator, Partners and Interagency Coordination Branch. She reviewed the trends and current status of urbanisation in Africa, highlighted regional initiatives, the AMCHUD intervention, especially the new Pact on urbanisation by AMCHUD with its partners on the continent. With a goal to "Mobilise, sensitize and strengthen the non-state actors to partner collaboratively with sub-Sahara African governments in articulating Africa's priorities for the next 20 years", the African Urban Agenda project seeks to *e*mpower Habitat Agenda Partners with understanding and knowledge of the urban imperative at all levels, define the priorities on urbanization for the African countries as contribution to milestones of the UN system-wide consultations - Post 2015 development Agenda, SDGs

and Habitat III and, facilitate the dialogue and exchange among African States themselves on issues related to sustainable urbanization, she added. The Project, which extends from the year 2013 to 2016, will cover 47 sub-Saharan Africa countries. Among the expected outcomes are a more aware and engaged people with a deeper knowledge and understanding of what their governments are doing in the urban development sector; strengthened territorial management with more steady and balanced urban growth - steady growth and development promoted; a stronger network of Habitat Agenda Partners that is able to relate within themselves and with Government in a complementary and collaborative manner - avoiding a breakdown in social order; and improved legislation of proactive planning and related processes that protect the rights of all citizens to information in order to participate in decision-making processes.

At the Take Off Conference in Nairobi Kenya.
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The Take-off Conference was a first step aimed at achieving a review of Africa's urban profile; an appreciation of the Global processes – Post 2015 and Habitat III; definition of Africa's vision and position within the global strategy and the available options; securing commitment of the technical officials of Africa to work with non-state actors at the operational level to prepare their national Habitat III reports; and, a clearer understanding of roles and expectations for Habitat III.

3.5: The Global Perspective

Session 5 of the Conference aimed at answering the question 'What is a global perspective on urbanization?' In responding, participants felt that urbanization should be seen as a driving force with significant impact on development patterns in the 21st century, especially in the next 20 to 40 years, bearing in mind Africa Vision 2063. Hitherto urbanization had been largely seen as a problem rather than an economic opportunity. However, for urbanization to fulfill this objective it must be well planned and managed. The four pillars of AMCHUD must guide this process of ensuring sustainable urban development. The discussions in this session were subsequently guided by the following question: 'How can we position Africa going into post 2015 and Habitat III?'

The session Chair, Ambassador Akin Oyateru, Nigerian High Commissioner to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat, introduced the topic by clearly declaring that Urbanization was determined by local conditions. He added that previous attempts at managing urbanization in Africa were largely uncoordinated. According to him, this is the first attempt to bring this to the front burner and the year 2015 was consequently the start of the new development agenda to replace the goals and targets of the MDG's. He recalled that at Istanbul, Africa did not contribute much to the debate on Habitat II. For the 2016 HABITAT III Conference, he hoped Africa was to make significant contribution to the Resolutions.

With regard to Topic 3 on Positioning Africa within the Post-2015 Development Agenda (the Future We Want) and the Sustainable Development Goals, Raf Tuts, Coordinator, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat, did advise that the challenge at hand was to ensure the inclusion of appropriate goals and targets on sustainable urban development. The current MDGs include slums, water and sanitation as targets. But the question being asked remained whether these thematic areas would be enough to address urbanization in the post MDGs era, especially given that Africa is rapidly urbanizing. This will be the first time there will be an agreement on the type of future we want. Among the many structures for the post 2015 debate in which governments can make contributions was the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals which has 30 member states and in which Africa is represented by seven member states.

Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost and there is a key role for local authorities. He noted a need to move from sectorial intervention to city wide approaches and use economic power for transformation to maximize benefits and social intervention. The proposed goal and targets on urbanization would aim to improve spatial configurations, improve living conditions and enable the adoption and implementation of urban policies and conditions among others. The RIO + 20 document *'The Future we want'* outlines the criteria for the SGDs, which state that they must be action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, limited in number, inspirational, global in nature and,

universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

At the moment, the choice for an Urban SDG is between a stand-alone SDG on cities (UN-Habitat, Cities alliance, UCLG and others) and, mainstreaming urbanization across all SDGs. A proposal on SGD goal to achieve ' *Sustainable cities and Human settlements'* is now a work in progress with proposed targets to include; Improved Spatial Configuration, Living Conditions, Enabling Legislation as well as Enabling Conditions for Youth Employment, Urban Safety and Resilient Cities.

During discussions on Topic 4, The Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Urban Development (Habitat III), Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, Principal Adviser, Policy and Strategic Planning, Office of the Executive Director, UN-Habitat, commended the contributions of Nigeria and Ghana to the adoption of an Africa Urban Agenda that aims at reinvigorating commitment to sustainable urbanization ahead of Habitat III in 2016.

In that regard, it was recalled that in June 2013, the UN Secretary General designated the UN-Habitat Executive Director as the Secretary General of Habitat III. Before then, in April 2012, the Governing Council (GC 24) approved UN-Habitat Work Programme and budget preparation for Habitat III. The objectives of Habitat III are as follows: (i) Review progress made since Habitat II; ii) Review newer challenges; and iii) Formulate a new Habitat agenda taking into consideration the above.

He also informed participants that Guidelines for participation have been prepared and distributed to all governments and partners alike while all UN agencies would be expected to come together and participate in the Habitat III process. He gave a list of activities accomplished to date: guidelines on the national reports for all governments has been prepared and shared; preparatory reports made for the GC; interagency coordination among UN agencies which is ongoing; Habitat III Trust Fund which has been operationalized with UN-Habitat Executive Director as administrator; Webpage on Habitat III with all documents available. Furthermore, Habitat III will be discussed at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum by all round tables followed by a plenary discussion to share key issues and recommendations by the different Habitat Agenda Partner Groups.

UN-Habitat, through its regional offices, will support preparations by African countries towards Habitat III. This will include (i) preparation of regional reports (ii) mobilization of resources (iii) liaison with regional bodies, support to National Habitat Committees and national reports preparations, ensuring coherence of post 2015 and Habitat III discussions in the region. He noted that while Africa was ahead in terms of the preparations for Habitat III compared to other continents, what remained to be done included setting up/strengthening of National Habitat Committees; preparation of National Reports by June 2014; mobilization of resources; introduction of Habitat III at AMCHUD and WUF 7; preparing for first PrepCom meeting in October 2014 in New York; and, preparation fort PrepCom 2 meeting in Nairobi, in 2015 alongside GC25.

In concluding, he emphasised that because Habitat III will be the first United Nations Conference implementing the new SDGs in the post-2015 era, it was essential that the message for Habitat III be the same message for the post-2015 Agenda.

The Panel of Discussants were Ms. Rosemary Mukasa, Deputy Permanent Representative of Uganda to UNEP and UN-Habitat, Hon. Fredrick Ngenzebuhoro, Member, East African Legislative Assembly, Tanzania, Mr. Bestman Toe, Chairman, Slum Dwellers International, Liberia and M. Kwassi Tosa, Secrétaire Général du Ministère de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat, Lomé, Togo.

According to Ms. Rosemary Mukasa, a key aspect to consider and the Global Perspective is the issue of inclusion. Mobilisation should be complete and no one should be left behind. She noted that although 40 per cent of Africa was urbanized, there was still a need to cater for the other 60 per cent of the rest of the population. As such, Habitat III needed to attend to the unfinished programs of Habitat II either by using a stand-alone format or through integration.

Hon. Fredrick Ngenzebuhoro felt that urban development has reached a point of non-return. The youth in the villages must be cared for in the process of urbanization. In Kibera, Nairobi, there were more than one million people. This came with high insecurity, poor sanitation, commercial sex by under-age girls and high prevalence of HIV/AIDS among other challenges. Those who could allocate money to address these challenges wee members of parliament; they need to be sensitized if these inconsistencies were to be corrected.

Modern urban wastewater treatment plant.
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For Mr. Bestman Toe, urbanization was coming about as a factor of necessity. The political, economic and social causes of urbanization were gaining greater grounds. Urbanization in Africa has no indicators, he continued, while asserting time that corruption has played a negative major role as well as institutions on development. He went on to say that there was a need to address slum issues; in order to do so, and one could list among the critical strategies, the use of network information sharing and the mobilization of civil society groups.

While talking about the situation in his country, Mr. M. Kwassi Tosa identified institutional negligence as an issue to deal with. For example, he added, UN-Habitat assisted Togo to start the preparation of a National Habitat Policy in 1998. The Ministry for Urban Affairs and Housing was abolished thereafter. As a result, the policy was only elaborated and validated at the national level in

2008, and then adopted in 2009. It was only then that a new Ministry was founded. Political will is necessary if urbanization were to become a priority. UN-Habitat has therefore a duty to assist its member states in formulating and implementing urban policies at the country level. Additionally, regular monitoring and evaluation should take place to assess progress in implementation. If this is not done, UN-Habitat would not be seen to have been assisting its member countries.

During discussions in Plenary, questions were raised as to the position on MDG's and financing of the agenda. The meeting was informed that a provision has been made to facilitate the participation of local authorities. Their importance and relevance were recognised while it was agreed that each Minister should include Mayors in his delegation to make the Agenda acceptable.

On the role of the private sector in the post-2015 goals, it was recalled that unlike in the case of MDGS where the inclusion of the private sector was an after-thought, the private sector was now core to the SDGs discussions, especially in discussions regarding the implementation of post-2015 goals. UN-Habitat had planned a private sector round-table scheduled to take place in December 2013, in New York, USA, which showed the importance which was being attached to the private sector's participation in SDGs discussions. Further, private sector professionals, consultants and companies have been quite well engaged so far in these discussions, but a challenge remained, i.e. engaging real estate agents/housing providers within the sector. They are core to the urbanization process and the question which remains is how best to constructively mainstream them in these efforts.

As to what people could do with regard to these important processes, participants were reminded that National Habitat Committees are paramount and the private sector ought to be party to the process. Reference was equally made to the fact that Habitat III had put a lot of emphasis on the role of local governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners (HAPs) and a paper had been prepared to that effect. There will be an assembly of mayors during Habitat III Conference.

3.6: The Continent's Long Term Vision

Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments (Africa), chaired the session. He gave the floor to Mrs. Katharina Rochell, Associate Human Settlements Officer at UN-Habitat, to introduce the topic on Re-imagining Sustainable Urban Transitions: Curtain Raiser of the Third State of African Cities Report. From her presentation of the Third State of African Cities Report 2014, it would appear that housing issues that were the focus of the UN-Habitat 2008 report have now evolved into wider urban issues (inequality, governance, etc.). Key urbanization challenges facing Africa today include massive population growth in the context of wide spread poverty, though the continent still remains the least urbanized among the world continents and is the fastest urbanizing of all of them, with currently 40% of its population living in cities, with a projected population of up to 60% in cities by 2060. By 2050, African cities will need to accommodate three times as many people as today.

She went on to claim that Africa's urban characteristics present significant opportunities for sustainable transition pathways, including the demographic dividend potential, given that by 2040, Africa's youth was likely to constitute the largest labor force in the world, and this could either be the cornerstone of development or a major socio-political risk. By 2020, the GDP of African countries is projected to almost double from its 2008 real GDP value of USD 1.6 trillion. At the core of this shift, there is an emerging middle class and significant economic growth, while booming cities are stimulating many nations' construction industries. Some of the challenges include the persistence of massive poverty and the worsening of inequality, besides higher frequency as well as greater severity of cataclysmic events which put the intense concentration of populations, their assets and functions, together with urban areas particularly, at risk.

These transitions should be interpreted as opportunities for a deep review of African nations' policies and strategies. Because Africa is in dire need of new visions on what good urban management for the 21st century entails, the Habitat III process and the 2014 report should represent an opportunity to leapfrog conventional urban development paths to greener urban economies.

On the Topic of **Rethinking economic development models and harnessing urbanization as a key factor of Africa's Development**, Mr. Salih Booker, Advisor to the Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), noted that a new Unit has been established at UNECA with a strategic focus on urbanization in Africa. The Agenda 2063 of the African Union is people-centered, celebrating the ideals of Pan-Africanism. The efforts made in shaping the post-2015 Agenda focus on creating an African vision. Africa may want to have its own African development goals as a subset of the SDGs, and for that purpose, Africans need to clearly define how they will measure development in Africa. AU, AfDB and ECA are institutions that will help deliver this vision and they are eager to assist in the African Urban Agenda spearheaded by UN-Habitat.

Mr.Booker dwelt on six important points to note, as follows:

(i)   The continent has struggled since independence to find a development model that is designed by and for Africans and meant to improve the lives of all Africans. The model is focused on the structural transformation of African economies, especially the large scale transfers of resources from one sector to another, leading to a change in the economic policies of a country. In Africa, the share of the economy is now shifting from agriculture to industry, to new technology and to productivity in all sectors.

(ii)   With the liberation of the continent, a Pan African vision has been developed. Such an economic vision, articulated in the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action of the nineties, has been consistent since its launch. This vision is focused on self-reliance, self-sustainment and diversification of economies with economic decolonization. These principles were strengthened by the African Charter of People and Humans Rights and are today fundamental to Africa's long term development strategies. These have always been, but now, there is a new call for a common and concerted effort of cooperation.

(iii)   The African vision was dealt considerable setbacks in the 1980s and 1990s. However there is now a new era of structural transformation and of incredible growth.

(iv)   The African Urban Agenda has been largely missing from this vision while urban Africa needed to be liberated.

(v)   The African Urban Agenda must be the key for unlocking the door to structural transformation of the African economy - both rural and urban.

(vi)   There was growing interest in Africa, especially in democratic states that are committed to economic growth on the continent. These states have a structure, capacity and institutions to achieve this. We must tap into these.

In conclusion, he emphasized that the Conference agreed that the debate was on whether Africa should follow market-led models or state-led models of growth though the continent has so far recognized a democratic state-led development growth approach. He also noted that there was a need for a push for devolution from central to local government while there should be a shift in building codes and tenancy rights, since the old and new master plans of cities were often equally exclusionary. The Conference recommended that urban fantasies that view urbanization as a process where people are added later be avoided at all costs.

It was also recommended that more expenditure on infrastructure and basic services in African cities be part of the Africa Urban Agenda, thereby resulting in the pursuit of a structural transformation of cities. Urbanization does lead to improved Human Development Index scores and life index and there was a need to improve the link between urbanization and industrialization.

The Panel of discussants included Mr. Edward Kyazze, Head of Division in charge of Housing, Urban Finance and Development, Rwanda, Dr. Rene Hohmann, Senior Urban Specialist, Cities Alliance, Mr. Neil Webster, Regional Technical Adviser, Local Development Finance, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), Mr. Oumar Sow, Directeur de l'Urbanisme et de l'Architecture, Dakar, Sénégal, and Ms. Maria Issufo Santos, Chief of Housing Department, Ministerio das Obras Publicas e Habitacao, Maputo, Mozambique .

Mr. Kyazze informed the Conference that Rwanda was committed to supporting urbanization in an inclusive and sustainable manner and in promoting secondary cities that can act as economic poles of growth. This can only be achieved through the improvement of infrastructure, exports, energy, green economy and the management of the urbanization processes. There was also a need to explore cross-border sharing of information and technology. He contended that urbanization should be extended beyond the local level to other regions, and for that reason, resources should be allocated in a more efficient way, and shared growth promoted with the national spatial framework better structured.

Dr. Rene Hohmann indicated that Cities Alliance had started to formulate a strategy for urbanization in Sub Saharan Africa and that there was not only a need but a strong voice as well from African governments for an Africa Urban Agenda . According to him, the urban agenda should be viewed as a train taking passengers to Habitat III, with different carriages such as Cities Alliance, Global Taskforce for Local governments, etc. These carriages must be all linked while the train must stop at different locations (local, national, regional, etc.). It also needs many partners to join in the efforts and strengthen our message to Habitat III.

He further remarked that attention was beginning to shift from challenges to opportunities and this was the type of thinking that should be fostered through a new discourse on the best way to integrate informal settlements in economic growth. This must include inclusion, access to services and the assurance that those who have been neglected will have a place at the table and will be included in the Africa Urban Agenda.

Mr. Neil Webster spoke of the mandate of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) which is to use grants in support of local development and inclusive finance. Subsidiaries are supporting efforts meant to strengthen local institutions while strong local institutions are bringing greater demand inside government and at the same time, are challenging the happenings on the ground. With urbanization, there is great opportunity to enhance delivery of services, reduce inequality, create productivity, etc. He highlighted the following points :

(i) Strong governments need good public financial management to build a foundation for governance. These elements could be made mandatory (budgets, accounting and systems, etc) before a foundation for developments is created;

(ii) Capital and support can help strengthen public management. There is need to look at own source of revenues and allocate it to appropriate areas. Municipal Bonds are risky but this could be a way for cities to attract investment. Also look at Impact Investors who want to put money into CSR;

(iii) All of the above needs to be based on a contract between national and local authorities. By strengthening local authorities, national authorities become also strengthened.

Mr. Oumar Sow observed on his part that focusing on partnerships was very important and so was long-term perspective. He gave the example of Senegal where it was essential to develop partnerships, especially at three levels: Partnership between state actors and non-state actors; Partnership between state actors and local governments; South-south partnership

A long-term vision includes a change of paradigm and of perspective. It was therefore important to develop cross-border potential and to promote our cities. A system of "urban hubs" is being developed in Senegal, he added, because historically in the administrative framework, there was one capital city which used to regroup all the economic activities, and the idea is now to have this development distributed more geographically throughout the whole country.

He then raised the issue of planning tools that had not been addressed yet during the Conference. He went on to note that in Sub-Saharan Africa, people found it difficult to use these tools, even though they were common. However, planning tools are often outdated before they are put into use. Mechanisms that follow/assist ought therefore to be put in place.

He noted that in Senegal, there was a huge housing shortage. The availability of social housing was very important in making cities viable and in reducing the number of people living in slums, something which has worked in other countries. Countries should consequently learn from other's examples through exchanges of information.

Ms. Maria Issufo Santos did recognise that Mozambique was enjoying strong economic growth as a result of natural resource discoveries and exploitation. The government was working closely with the academia to improve urban planning. Unfortunately, there was also poor management at the local level. There was therefore a need to build

stronger institutions which would help achieve the goals set by the government. Economic and urban issues ought to be discussed, focusing on what to do in order to equip cities so that they can cater for this inevitable growth, the way to implement the Urban Agenda, the inclusion of stakeholders in the process.

During discussions time, the Conference agreed that there was a need to rethink the way cities are being looked at. Cities do not have the required capacity to carry on their mandate. It would therefore be necessary that they enter into strong partnerships with institutions such as UN-Habitat, AfDB, the World Bank and UNCDF which will then help them in reinventing themselves.

Similarly, there would be a need to establish strong partnerships between cities and national governments for countries' economies to thrive. At the same time, the mentality of the individuals needs to change as too often people in cities are rather regarded as a problem than a solution and there is no strategy which enables governments to tap into their innovation and talent. Cities need to be part of the African agenda as they help in providing healthcare, education and in reducing violence, etc. To address poverty is not to force people away but to promote employment and to encourage the informal sector to be active in the economy. As for secondary cities, they play the role of intermediaries between rural and larger urban centres, absorb a substantial part of migrants and have a strong role in a country's economy.

3.7: Preparation of Habitat III Reports

The session, which was chaired by Mr. Jean Pierre Mbassi, Secretary General, UCLGA, aimed at explaining the guidelines to be used for the preparation of National Habitat III reports. It also afforded an opportunity to countries to share their experiences in urban matters and to reflect on their national preparatory processes for Habitat III reports.

He pointed out the need to adopt an African Urban Agenda well in advance of Habitat III Conference to allow Africans speak with one united voice, so that the Habitat III Conference would not be dominated by emerging and developed countries alone. A vision of African cities of tomorrow will require a rethinking of the narrative of African cities from being negative.

Participants further noted that globalization was driven by global cities which in turn, connect regions to the world. Africa needed global cities. But what was even more important was the fact that cities in Africa needed to be connected (for example, the Central African region was lagging behind economically in part because its cities were not connected). It was therefore urgent to act and to address the urban challenges facing the continent, not only in the big cities but more importantly in the small and medium sized towns, before they become unbearable. Indeed, as the saying goes "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail".

View of Juba, South Sudan.
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7.1 On the topic entitled **Guidelines for Preparation of National Habitat III Reports**, Mr. Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, Principal Adviser, Office of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, proposed that National reports should assess the Habitat agenda, by identifying emerging trends, issues, challenges and opportunities that can be included in the New Urban Agenda. In concluding his presentation, he recommended that these reports be aligned with national development priorities and the MDGs, while recalling that the Habitat Agenda has two broad goals: (i) Adequate shelter for all (which includes safety, security, affordability, freedom from discrimination, human rights and addresses the needs of marginalized communities including women) and it is aligned with Target 7D of the MDGs (one of the most ill-formulated targets, as it lacks ambition in terms of numbers and time frames) and Target 7C on water and sanitation; and (ii) Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world.

Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza further proposed that the national report preparation process be guided by the following main beliefs: (i) that great emphasis be placed on inclusiveness and National Habitat Committees at national level be the most appropriate bodies to lead preparation of the reports; (ii) that the steps to be followed in the preparation of national reports be as follows: (a) setting up of National Habitat Committees; (b) gathering and analysing information; (c) holding of national consultations (workshops) with all stakeholders represented in order to agree on priorities, issues and challenges as well as on new issues and lessons learnt that could form part of the New Urban Agenda; (d) preparation of National Reports to be finalized by 30 June 2014.

Participants were equally advised that the contents of national reports were outlined in the guidelines and comprised six key topics, thirty (30) issues and twelve (12) indicators which were by no means exhaustive. Issues outlined included urban demographic issues, land and urban planning, environment and urbanization, urban governance and legislation, urban economy and housing and basic services. These key topics were distilled from the Habitat Agenda and governments could measure the progress made or not towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. National committees were encouraged to include in their national reports issues which they considered to be important for their individual countries.

On the requirements of the national reports, Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza emphasised inclusiveness of all stakeholders in order to ensure ownership; the imperative for the Urban Agenda to be evidence-based and forward looking; the need to prepare the report in the official languages of the country though translation into English

would be required for analysis; the support available from UN-Habitat, governments and UN-agencies, such as that already provided by Nigeria, France, Ghana to assist in the preparations at country levels; the technical advice and support in data collection (for countries to be used for reports) available from UN-Habitat to regional and country offices, HPMs.

In conclusion, Mr. Mutizwa-Mangiza reiterated the support to be expected from UN Habitat Resident Coordinators, following the pledge by the UN system to lend assistance to National Committees whenever required.

7.2: Country Reflections on the National Habitat III Preparatory Process

This session focused on briefs on the state of preparation for the Habitat III process by the following countries: The Gambia, Madagascar, Burundi, Lesotho and Malawi.

The Conference learnt from Mr. Bulli Dibba, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Regional Government, that the National Habitat Committee of The Gambia had been established and that the preparatory process towards Habitat III was on track. Information was available in abundance though information analysis remained a challenge to the Committee. The Ministry of Lands and Regional Government, which was playing a coordination role, was determined to ensure broad participation in the consultative process, with key stakeholders including the private sector, civil society, media, parliamentarians, academia and local grassroots organization.

Mr. Randrianasoloarimina Tiana, Directeur Général de l'Aménagement du Territoire, noted that despite the fact that Madagascar has been in a political crisis for the last few years, the country remained committed to the Habitat Agenda. He added that national land development policies and national planning documents were in place and that a national urban forum was held in March 2013 with 300 participants and multiple stakeholders in attendance. He expressed gratitude to UN-Habitat for its support through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme and explained that in implementing the next steps of the Habitat Agenda, Madagascar would try and promote, through broad awareness campaigns, the use of planning tools at all levels and to implement its National Land Policy.

Mr. Marcel Bibonimana, Directeur de l'Habitat, noted during his intervention that Burundi's urban population was low in comparison to other cities in Africa, though the rate of urban growth was high. He recalled that the country was experiencing urban planning problems due to its mountainous landscape and on that note, he reminded the gathering that an African Urban Agenda should also include guidelines on urban planning for mountainous countries. There was also a need to further discuss how to fund countries that were implementing the Habitat Agenda. For example, national housing policies in Burundi were in place but not implemented due to the conflict situation in which the country found itself, and which resulted in a lack of resources for the implementation of national urban housing projects. It then follows that in preparation for an urban development agenda, it would be crucial to include strategies for funding of the process.

In Burundi, decent housing was in high demand and the government envisaged that a minimum number of housing units would be built in the near future.

According to Ms. Kabelo Lethunya, Director of Housing, Ministry of Local Government Chieftainship and Parliament Affairs, Lesotho's achievements towards the Habitat Agenda include improved water connection to rural communities; increased electricity connection from 5-15%; and the adoption of national urban and housing policies with UN-Habitat's support. A National Habitat Committee was in place with multiple stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, etc. The contribution to formulation of a global housing strategy, as well as the elaboration of national housing sector policies were part of the preparatory processes for the report which will be ready by June 2014.

Mr. Felix Tukula, Commissioner for Physical Planning, Ministry of Lands and Housing of Malawi, informed participants that the country had already established a National Committee whose objective was the preparation of the national report for Habitat III. Further, Malawi has a national urban forum which acts as the vehicle for the national report preparation and doubles as a National Habitat Committee through its steering committee. A national urban policy is under preparation with support from UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance. The *State of Malawi Cities* report is currently being prepared, in collaboration with the African Centre for Cities. The Habitat III national report will be finalized by June 2014.

3.8: Partners Voices

During the session which was chaired by Mr. Gafar Salami of the Observatoire Urbain National du Benin, participants were informed that after the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul, in 1996, Benin had set up the National Urban Observatory, which was housed within the Ministry for Environment, Housing and Urban affairs. However, up to this day, only 3 cities, i.e. those with over 100.000 inhabitants, were being supported by the National Urban Observatory; but with the support of UN-Habitat, the country was also able to write a report on its secondary cities.

Thereafter, Session 8 on Doing Things Together: Imperatives of Partnership was addressed by Ms. Esther Mwaura, National Coordinator, GROOTS Kenya. She recalled that civil society groups have been critical partners in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. It was therefore important that Habitat Agenda Partners work together and that no one should be left behind if the partnership were to work better, be more efficient and more effective, accountable, coordinated and in harmony, taking individual and collective ownership of the African Urban Agenda, from planning to implementation, at all levels, be it national, regional or international.

All partners should work together towards articulating a shared vision, clarifying their roles and responsibility, providing feedback, sharing information and putting in place a consultative framework, having an onset understanding of resources required for meaningful engagement, ensuring adequate support and effective participation of the urban poor, especially grassroots women and youth and putting in place a progress tracking framework. Women and Youth are taunted to be the drivers of the future for the African cities and towns. Equitable sharing of Africa's existing and new resources (including access to land) is imperative in the development process. It is important that grassroots women are directly involved in the decision-making processes at all levels in the Africa Urban Agenda.

3.8.1: Partner Groups' Roundtables

Following is a discussion by three groups, namely (a) Local Governments(b) Regional and sub-regional institutions - UN agencies, Cities Alliance and others and (c) Private sector and Civil Society Organizations (including professionals, academia, women, youth, persons with disability and grassroots organizations).

8.1.1 Group1 Local Governments: The Group came up with the following recommendations:

1. There must be a positive narrative which reflects that cities are possibilities for solutions.

2. Capacity and resources be made available to cities as it would be impossible to cope with the current rapid urbanisation of Africa if local governments were not empowered to manage the trend.

3. The civil society and the private sector should engage with governments in order to ensure that local government management is inclusive as possible.

4. International diplomacy and cooperation: local government authorities should be allowed to enter into para-diplomacy in order to enrich and improve relations for the purpose of uniting Africa.

5. There should be better representation of local government at the Habitat III Conference.

8.1.2 Group 2 on Regional and sub-regional institutions - UN agencies, Cities Alliance and others,

On city narrative, the big image should be made positive. In this respect, urbanization has to be seen as an opportunity and a driving force as well as a potential for creating stability, economic growth and development, reducing inequality, etc. This narrative needs to be developed at regional, national and local levels and be linked to issues that have to do with climate change, gender, environment, youth, inequality and it should illustrate how urbanization can contribute in dealing with those challenges

With respect to data, a strategy should be developed with the view to disseminate, target and utilise data from the regional to the national level and to the local level, and be managed in such a way as to enable good monitoring and evaluation to inform planning, etc.

Planning tools be improved and strengthened – in order to respond to a capacity deficit.

- That on Partnerships, the UN should act as one and not just talk as one, bringing its strength to support governments and regional organisations so that urbanisation can turn into a dynamic project in terms of economic growth and stability, etc. Accordingly, the UN should strengthen these partnerships by including the private sector and the civil society.

8.1.3 Group3 Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations (including professionals, academia, women, youth, persons with disability and grassroots organizations) Key issues raised by the group included:

1. There was a lack of adequate affordable housing, an issue that needed to be addressed in partnership with the private sector as Governments cannot tackle the challenge of urbanisation alone.

2. There was a need to undertake a gap analysis of the relationship between the State and non-state actors.

3. Governments were very rigid and bureaucratic and it became difficult for them to accommodate CSOs' opinions. The issue of capacity building and that of institutional reform must therefore be addressed.

4. The AfDB, the World Bank and UN-Habitat should consider entering into closer partnerships.

5. There was a need to look for new and innovative ways of mobilizing resources.

6. Governments should respect the rights of all people including that of the slum dwellers, for example

7. Politicians should avoid technical issues that they do not understand.

8. Issues must be addressed from the bottom up also involving the grassroots as well as from the top-down.

9. Existing methodologies used by Governments must be revisited in order to involve CSOs to a greater extent. A four 'P' when it comes to partnership, private sector, public sector was needed to include 'people'. Issues must be addressed from a grassroots level.

10. Governments should be held accountable and made more transparent. Committees for all players should be put in place to aid with transparency and give a voice to all the parties concerned. CSOs in particular should be involved as they can help undertake monitoring and evaluation. People currently do not have much 'accesses' to Governments and this problem must be addressed.

11. There were many good examples to be learned from, in particular from African countries. National forums should be put in place to give CSOs a platform from where they can discuss issues of concern to them. A participatory approach must be adopted when formulating country level Habitat III reports. These should not be done by Governments alone, or in parallel, but together with CSOs as Africans need to speak with one voice.

12. Knowledge and information sharing as well as monitoring were key here, as no reliable means of evaluating existing partnerships existed.

During Plenary discussions, participants noted that more needed to be done in order to improve engagement with each other, with strict rules and due process, and adequate forum for Governments and CSOs to meet and discuss issues of common interest.

Porto-Novo, Benin. **© Anton Ivanov/Shutterstock**

The Conference further noted lack of Government and CSO collaboration, as Governments often lacked patience during policy formulation and implementation and at times changes policies without seeking inputs from other partners with grass roots experience and expertise. Kenya was given as an example where a 'civil society stakeholder forum' was held once a month, and a 'presidential round table', twice a year. During the latter, CSOs would meet with the President and discuss issues which have been selected by prior arrangement. These fora have proved to be very successful.

CSOs are sometimes regarded as attention seekers and as a result, they are often ignored, yet CSOs exist to solve specific problems at community level. Governments were urged to ensure that the voice of CSOs was always listened to, since most of these organisation were legally registered.

3.9: Resources, Tools and Methods

The session was chaired by Mr. Iman Nur Icar, Vice-Mayor of the city of Mogadishu, Somalia.

In her address on **Africa Regional Café on tools and methods to support sustainable urban development**, Ms. Lucia Kiwala, Chief, Civil Society Unit (CSO) Partners and Interagency Coordination Branch, UN-Habitat, introduced the following topics: National Urban Policies, Planned City Extensions, Public spaces, Land Readjustment and Value Capture and Youth Empowerment and Job Creation, including One Youth Stop Youth Centres. She futher introduced six maps of Africa to illustrate urbanization trends in Africa, between the period 1950–2050, at twenty-year intervals. The maps were regarded as a powerful tool to help policy-makers, politicians, technicians, activists and citizens alike how Africa is first urbanizing – and its impact on policy makeup, national and regional development; these were to be subsequently elaborated upon by some of her colleagues.

While discussing the topic on **National Urban Policies,** Mr. Remy Sietchiping, Chief, Regional and Metropolitan Planning, took a look at the options and scenarios for the New Urban Policy being advocated and described institutional arrangements for the NUP, the policy

reforms required, the research and evidence collection and support for the NUP, the process of developing the policy, partnerships and consultations, as well as identifying opportunities and risks.

Mr. Jose Chong, Urban Planning and Design Specialist, gave an overview of **Planned City Extensions** and what UN-Habitat's 'Planned City Extension' services can offer, including the Development of Planned City Extension strategies and plans for specific cities; capacity building for urban planners, city managers, local leaders; the development of financial solutions to implement extension plans, documentation of planned city extension experiences; the preparation of urban development and urban planning scenarios and the adaptation and development of tools for planned city extension at national and local levels.

Mrs. Nayoka Martinez-Backstrom, Human Settlements Officer/Program Manager, in her introduction of **Public Spaces,** described how UN-Habitat can advance the agenda on place-making and public spaces in a way that would consolidate local and international approaches to creating inclusive cities, enhance the knowledge of Partners and of local authorities on place-making, public spaces and quality of urban life. Furthermore facilitate and put into practice exchange of information, cooperation and research among partners working in the field.

Mr. Robert Lewis-Lettington, Unit Leader, Urban Legislation, Urban Land, Legislation and Governance Branch, made an introductory presentation on the Legislation, Land and Governance Branch of UN-Habitat, outlining the branch's working definition. The presentation also highlighted various ongoing initiatives,

including Urban Legal Network, Urban legal knowledge, Urban Law Database, Partnering with universities, etc.

On **Youth Empowerment and Job Creation, including One Youth Stop Youth Centres,** Mr. Eric Luguya, from the Youth and Livelihoods Unit, gave an overview of youth employment statistics, which showed that many of them live in urban areas, and in particular in informal settlements. In many African cities, more than 50% of the urban population is under the age of 19 years. According to ILO, the number of unemployed youth has been on the increase since 2011. Global rates in the period 2012-2016 are estimated to fluctuate at 12.7%. In North Africa, it is almost 30% whereas in Sub-Saharan Africa it is estimated at 12%. These young people face major challenges though the situation is not completely hopeless. UN-Habitat is doing what it can to address the problem, through the Urban Youth Fund and the One Stop Youth Centers. These two initiatives are founded on the principles of looking at youth as assets, not problems, for development.

The One Stop Youth Centers, provide a holistic alternative for youth, with employment and livelihoods as entry points. Other services offered include computers, internet and training to enhance youth to access information. Efforts are also made to engage youth with local governments as active participants in issues of governance. The One Stop Centers are run by local authorities, or municipalities. One-Stop centers respond to the needs of the local youth population. Core programmes include: sports and recreation, Job skills and entrepreneurship training, health services such as HIV/AIDs testing and counseling and the support of youth-led governance

and planning. The One-Stop Model for Urban Youth Development has the following three principles at its core whereby:

(a) The principles of "youth-led development", where youth take the lead role in their own and their communities' development;

(b) Adoption of an integrated approach to youth development, where all aspects of a youth's life are supported through the One-Stop programmes;

(c) Building partnerships between UN-Habitat, local governments, civil society, youth and the private sector to develop programmes which respond to the needs of the youth.

Mr. Gora Mboup, Chief, Global Urban Observatory, Research and Capacity Development Branch, provided an overview of the City Prosperity Index, which covers productivity, quality of life, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, equity and social inclusion, urban form and structure and institutions, laws and governance. He pointed out that cities with very solid prosperity factors have strong economic fundamentals and high productivity, while their population live longer and are well educated. Infrastructures are available without spatial distortions and there is sufficient urban land area allocated to streets and public spaces and the urban environment is well managed, Equity and Social inclusion are valued and good governance, urban planning, laws, regulations and institutional frameworks are instituted.

On the contrary, cities with weak prosperity factors have everything to be done in terms of quality of life, infrastructure and environment. They have distorted urban form and structure as well as historical structural problems, chronic inequality of opportunities, widespread poverty, inadequate capital investment in public good and lack of pro-poor social programmes.

The Cities Prosperity Initiative aims at creating a globally recognized policy framework, in-depth and customized estimation of CPI, actions plans to advance prosperity, sharing best practices, harnessing UN-Habitat's extensive knowledge, sustainable solutions, local monitoring mechanisms and linking cities and partners.

3.10: Wrap Up and Closing

The final session of the Take-off Conference was chaired by Professor Oyebanji Oyeyinka, Director and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Executive Director, UN-Habitat. He kicked off the session by insisting that the walls which divide countries, such as language barriers and state and non-state demarcations should come down. Urbanization was a positive force, he reckoned, and demarcations between urbanization and economic development go hand in hand. He noted that African nations have the resources - both in terms of human capacity and financially - to achieve their development goal. He urged all present to henceforth become champions of the Urban Agenda in Africa.

Thereafter, Mr. Alioune Badiane presented the Recommendations and the Conclusions of the Conference. The statements and summary of recommendations and Conclusions as presented are hereby attached as Annex I and II.

3.11: Closing Statements

In his closing statement, Mr. Mohamed Abdou, Directeur de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat, Moroni, Comoros, called on participants to take up the challenge of urbanization in Africa. He emphasised that Comoros had subscribed to this approach and will do all it can to involve all actors in the country in this noble cause. The Habitat III process provides a new opportunity for Comoros to bring CSOs and communities into the planning process.

Mr. Oussmane Serkindia, Point Focal de ONU-Habitat et Président de l'Equipe-pays du Niger pour études du Programme Participatif d'Amélioration des Bidonvilles, Niamey, noted that the Republic of Niger was committed to addressing urbanization issues and in 2004, the country formulated a national strategy for urban development, law and management to ensure the wellbeing of the people of Niger. Niger understands the advantages of having well planned cities and strong partnerships with other actors. Niger was implementing a new plan for harmonious development amongst 13 sectors.

Mr. Alphajoh Cham of the Sierra Leone, Freetown, reiterated Sierra Leone's commitment in supporting the project of the Africa Urban Agenda. Although Sierra Leone was recovering from war and facing a lot of challenges, the country was undergoing legal reform and putting in place new policies including a planning law; establishment of a housing corporation and a draft national framework. However, a national committee for the Habitat III preparatory process was yet to be set up.

Mr. Havey Chimaliro, Executive Director, Concerned Youth Organization, Lilongwe, Malawi, noted that the Strengthening Partnerships for a New Africa Urban Agenda project was very timely and offered new hope. Youth must be involved in National Committees but governments require financial support to address youth issues. He stressed that partnerships with the private Sector can also help.

Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Quorani, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Surveying and Engineering, Khartoum, praised the organisers of the Take-off Conference for its success. He noted that though there have been many challenges in managing urbanization in Sudan, including economical, physical, institutional and legal challenges, slum areas were reduced from 60% to less than 20% in a span of few years. However, climate change remained a big issue in Sudan, since due to drought, many rural dwellers are forced to move into cities, and this leads to an increase in poverty. He recommended that GIS data be developed as this has proved to be very efficient.

Dr. Aisa Kacyira-Kirabo started her closing remarks by honouring the departed African icon, the Late Nelson Mandela. Drawing lessons learned from his life, she exhorted participants to always strife in overcoming difficulties, citing the manner in which the icon fought for justice on behalf of mankind. She reminded the audience that inequality still exists and that the prevalence of urban poverty was a call for taking the mantle from Nelson Mandela at a national and local level.

She then called on participants to build on the great lessons shared during the Take-Off Conference and not to be discouraged by failure. If urbanization is the 'answer', she added, then let it create jobs, as policy makers create an enabling environment and become catalysts for change. She hoped that delegates would derive a sense of ownership from the meeting and that Africa would be able to secure its future by looking beyond Habitat III. Indeed, urbanization was happening and Africa must work together to ensure that it is something sustainable; only then would participants look back to this conference with pride, she concluded.

4. CONCLUDING STATEMENT ON THE TAKE-OFF CONFERENCE FOR STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A NEW AFRICA URBAN AGENDA PROJECT

Aerial view of Lagos, Nigeria.
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The Take-off Conference for the Strengthening Partnerships for an Africa Urban Agenda took place at the United Nations Complex in Nairobi, Kenya from the 4th to the 6th of December, 2013, under the following theme: Imperatives for a new Urban Agenda.

The Strengthening Partnerships for an Africa Urban Agenda was initiated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), with strong support and collaboration from the Governments of Nigeria and Ghana. The purpose of the Conference was

to ensure an effective engagement of all stakeholders across the continent for an active, evidence-based and highly inclusive preparatory Process for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Urban Development (Habitat III) which will be convened in 2016, in line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 66/207 and 67/216, while its main objectives were to:

• Identify key imperatives for designing an Africa Urban Agenda, while building on the "New Pact: Optimizing the Urban Advantage";

• Explore ways of strengthening partnerships between States and non-state actors in the pursuit of a new urban agenda for Africa;

• Introduce the "Strengthening Partnerships Project" and review the road map for implementation, roles of various partners to achieve the Post-2015 Development Agenda and, the national and regional preparations for Habitat III; and,

• Provide an overview of tools for addressing priority areas for action.

A total of 110 delegates from 37 countries were in attendance; they were from governments, Habitat Agenda partners including regional and sub-regional institutions, donor and development partners, national and local governments, civil society organizations including professionals, academia, women, youths, persons with disabilities and grassroots organizations.

Deliberations at the Conference were conducted in 10 technical sessions comprising keynote addresses, technical presentations, panel discussions and partner group roundtables. They culminated in the adoption of recommendations and conclusions for priority action towards articulating an African Urban Agenda and promoting partnerships to ensure an effective participatory preparatory process for the Habitat III Conference. Key messages presented by dignitaries that guided deliberations at the Conference included the following:

• A message from Dr Joan Clos, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Habitat, explaining that urbanisation was a product of human activities and could be positive or negative. Positive or performing urbanization produces wealth and healthy living of society, empowers citizens and takes care of the needs of local residents. The Conference provided African nations an opportunity to share ideas in preparation for Habitat III in 2016.

• For Mr. Alioune Badiane, Ag. Director, Programmes Division, UN-Habitat, the world was looking towards an Urban Africa; therefore, the need for Africa to come together and form a very strong partnership for the development of Africa could not be over-emphasized. Due to its peculiar circumstances, Africa indeed needs to stand up to face the challenge of urbanisation, in partnership with other development partners such as Cities Alliance, AfDB, UNCA and others. He commended the Governments of Nigeria and Ghana for their support to the process of promoting the cause of the African Urban Agenda, as part of the Preparatory Process for Habitat III.

• Africa has to plan ahead because development is on-going, was the message from the *Overseeing* Minister of the Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing

and Urban Development, Nigeria, Arc Musa Sada. The commitment and strong political will of African leadership to ensure allocation of resources and clear designation of responsibilities are critical for articulating an enduring Africa Urban Agenda. Because local government is weak in Africa, it is essential to empower the local government structure for effective management and monitoring of the Africa Urban Agenda, which is a platform by which Africa can come forward to raise a common voice, raise the quality of life and unity of Africa, as well as promote good governance. Coming together is the beginning, working together is progress, thinking together is the success, he concluded. -;

• Only actions drawn from good governance and supported by the people can lead to a sustainable new Urban Agenda for Africa's development. Limited knowledge has limited the implementation of policies in Africa. There was therefore a strong need for capacity building amongst African nations which will be the basis for a new agenda for Africa. There was also a need to strengthen internal relationships/partnerships amongst the people and only an Africa led by good governance and supported by the people could draw a new urban agenda for African growth and development. The leadership provided by Nigeria was commendable and other countries were challenged to follow suit, declared the Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana, Hon. Akwasi Opong-Fosu, who also announced that a grant of $500,000 has been donated by the Government of Ghana to reflect the country's commitment to the project -

• As Africa was turning out to be the centre of development, the implications of rising urbanization needed to be looked into. The meeting will facilitate discussions on how to strengthen partnerships towards developing a new African Urban Agenda. This agenda will respond to both the current and future needs of Africa's urban dwellers. Uganda will be an effective and active partner of this initiative and key into the outcomes of this conference which should promote investment, employment generation and poverty eradication, promised the Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Uganda, Hon. Daudi Migereko.

• Development of a national urban policy to mitigate the effects of rapid urbanisation and implementation of such strategies as development of infrastructure in urban areas, reduction of electricity costs and execution of slum upgrading programmes are examples which have been adopted in Kenya, stated the Permanent Secretary of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya, Hon. Charity Ngilu represented by Principal Secretary Mariamu El Maawy.

• Although Africa was the least urbanized, it was the most rapidly urbanizing continent in this century. Unfortunately, Africa's urbanization has manifested itself largely as slums in our cities. There was therefore a need to develop how to translate this growth into making African cities become engines of economic and social transformation. The problems of urbanization were not sectoral but holistic and went beyond housing or infrastructure. There was the need to establish strong institutional frameworks and responsive legislation that go beyond policy.

Africa should pilot its own development rather than depending on donor nations, were propositions from Dr. Aisa Kacyira Kirabo, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat.

The Keynote Paper: *Imperatives for a holistic urbanization in Africa*: Urban growth and urbanization will shape the development challenges of the 21st Century, noted that there were competing views on Africa's urbanization in relation to Urban Bias, Migration and Urban growth etc. There was therefore a need to emphasise policy responses that will improve urban planning and governance. While there was no single process for urbanization, Global Environmental Change remained the key driver for urban change and raised fundamental questions about the fate of urban centres, as Prof. Susan Parmel, Centre for Cities, Cape Town, South Africa, put it.

Porto-Novo, Benin.
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The Conference acknowledged the following relevant developments in Africa's Urbanisation:

Following the adoption of Decision 29 on urbanization and chaotic urban growth in Africa by the AU Assembly at its second session in 2003, Africa's Heads of State and Government called for a coordinated African response to the challenges of urbanization. African Ministers for Housing and Urban Development through AMCHUD, adopted a Strategy Document - The AMCHUD Pact - Optimizing the Urban Advantage built on four Pillars: Transformative National Urban Policy, Compact Cities at a Human Scale, Undertaking Institutional and Legal Reforms and, Learning to Do Things Together. These should guide Africa's approach to the Habitat III Preparatory Process;

Africa and the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

Tools and methods to support sustainable urban development: The UN-Habitat in responding to the need to develop tools to support sustainable urban development, has promoted the following: (i) National Urban Policies; (ii) Planned City Extensions; (iii) Urban Legislation and Land Readjustment and Value Capture; (iv) Youth Empowerment and Job Creation, including One Stop Youth Centres; (v) Development of the City Prosperity Index to measure prosperity of cities; (vi) Cities and Climate Change strategies; and (vii) Urban Energy for promoting Energy Efficiency in buildings.

After extensive deliberations, the Conference agreed on the following key recommendations and resolutions, among others:

Taking Stock of Urbanization in Africa:

Urbanization has to be seen as an opportunity, a driving force and a potential for creating stability, economic growth and development, and for reducing inequality etc. This narrative needs to be developed at regional, national and local levels and linked to issues of climate change, gender, environment and youth inequality

There is a need in the future for political intervention, new partnership, new innovation and economic development, strategic planning and promotion of the Urban Agenda at national, regional and local context.

There is a need to develop data and knowledge platforms as well as to establish institutional framework to address the urbanisation challenge;

There is a need to address the three great challenges of urbanisation, namely, management of urban growth in a sustainable manner, growth of cities and reduction of urban poverty and to prioritise urbanization in national development plans and the spread of informal settlements in urban areas;

Governments should increase financial allocation and contributions to urban issues;

There is a need to encourage Public Private Partnership;

There is a need to invest in people and the environment;

There are currently no indicators to monitor and measure urbanisation in Africa, and yet this needs to be developed;

Institutional and Legal Reforms:

There is need for greater empowerment of local governments;

Urbanization is here to stay, but the means of making cities sustainable remains a major concern;

The Global Perspective:

There is need for UN-Habitat and its development partners to work towards proposing a post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal (SGD) to achieve *'Sustainable cities and Human settlements'* with targets to include; improved spatial configuration and living conditions, enabling legislation as well as enabling conditions for youth employment, urban safety and resilient cities;

A stand-alone SGD on urbanization is important but due consideration should be given to both form and function.

A bottom-up approach is necessary and communities must be the starting point for Habitat III and post-MDGs discussions. Habitat Agenda Partners including grass root organizations, women, youth, private sector and mayors must therefore actively participate in these processes alongside ministers and other government officials.

The continuum of urbanization, from villages to small market towns, university cities, medium, big and mega cities must not be lost in the Habitat III debates;

Private sector involvement is key, alongside that of governments and other actors, but they must also appreciate their role in society and to get involved irrespective of conditions for involvement;

Parliamentarians are policy makers, and are responsible for resource allocation. For them to make good policies they must be fully aware of the issues. The Global Parliamentarians Forum would be a good starting point to mobilize this group of stakeholders;

The relationship between CSOs and governments is often not a smooth one. Towards Habitat III and the SGDs, platforms must be harnessed to strengthen this linkage for harmonized solutions towards sustainable urbanization;

Governments and partners are encouraged to contribute to the Habitat III Trust Fund which is now operational;

AU 2063 vision is a very important consideration for shaping Africa's positions in Habitat III and post-MDGs and the AU role in this process should be clear;

The Scope of Habitat III needs to be wider than that of Habitat II and move beyond the guidelines for national reports currently in place;

There should be an international monitoring mechanism for the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat should take this role and evaluate progress;

The Continent's Long Term Vision:

Africa has to plan ahead because development is ongoing. We should see cities as business enterprises, a place of growth. The commitment of African leadership and strong political will is most needed. Also, both political will and strong financial backing are needed for an enduring Africa Urban Agenda;

Daily life on the streets of Kampala, Uganda.
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Institutional capacity is still very low. There is a need for new curriculum tailored at achieving Africa Urban Agenda. Furthermore, capacity building for policy making and implementation at Ministry level should be prioritized;

There is a strong need for capacity building amongst African nations to strengthen internal relationship/partnership amongst our own people;

Strong governments require good public financial management to build a foundation for governance. These elements could be initially mandatory (budgets, accounting, systems, etc) before creating a foundation for development;

There is a need to look at own source revenues, such as Municipal Bonds, which could be allocated to the appropriate areas.

Preparation of Habitat III Reports:

Adoption of a new Africa Urban Agenda is a critical component of the Habitat III preparatory process. Fresh ideas are required to drive the process and new economic development models adopted. Planning needs capital, there is therefore a need to launch municipal bonds in order to develop activities that would also boost youth employment.

The Conference has given African nations an opportunity to share ideas in preparation for Habitat III in 2016. These efforts should be developed and a credible platform raised to ensure Africa derives the maximum benefits from this landmark Conference;

To ensure effective reporting, African countries should follow the guidelines provided by UN-Habitat, but also often include key issues relevant to their national context. The preparatory process of national reports MUST be inclusive, and partners must come together to create a common agenda. Further, the preparatory process is urgent and must begin immediately;

National reports have the purpose to assess the Habitat agenda. It is important that these reports are aligned with national development priorities and the MDGs.

Resources, Tools and Methods:

Africa has significant capacity deficiency and thus requires partnerships at various levels, especially with the UN agencies. Nevertheless, these agencies are required to be more coordinated and work together for new Africa Urban Agenda;

Data is lacking and often mismanaged. There is need for comprehensive data bank on housing, population etc. Most planning tools are outdated, new tools are required because of constant value changes. There is need for value change, analysis and adoption of national data management strategies;

Africa has lacked a coherent development agenda under the colonial era. The African Development Bank and similar institutions will be involved in developing this strategy. There is a need to create a new mind set on policy and planning in Africa.

In order to address existing technological challenges, big investors need to be encouraged to join efforts to update data on population and housing using new technologies.

Feedback and contributions by Habitat Agenda partners:

The local government is vital to Africa's urban agenda. Central governments should do more in terms of Decentralisation and Devolution as Local governments are not always well represented in policy decision making.

To strengthen partnership between local and national government, Africa needs to have a long time development plan, as well as a paradigm shift. There are cross-border potentials, while trans-border growth of localities requires urban planning tools and implementation.

In conclusion, the conference commended the Governments of Nigeria and Ghana for their leadership, support and commitment to the process of promoting the cause of the New African Urban Agenda as part of the Preparatory Process for Habitat III and other governments were challenged to act likewise to ensure a sustainable urban future for Africa.

5. ANNEX

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND HABITAT AGENDA PARTNERS	
Angola	**Mr. António Fernandes Pereira** Head of Delegation, National Institute for Territorial Urbanisation and Planning
Angola	**Mr. Rafael da Costa António**
Benin	**Mr. Gafar Salami** Ingénieur Statisticien Economiste, Expert en Population et Dynamique Urbaine
Benin	**Mr. Ifede Balle** Architecte, Chef Service Logement et Promotion Immobilière à la Direction Générale de l'Habitat et de la Construction
Botswana	**Professor Aloysius Mosha** Professor, University of Botswana
Burkina Faso	**Mr. Marc Zoungrana** Mayor of Dapelgo and Secretary General, Association of Municipalities of Burkina Faso
Burkina Faso	**Ms. Sanhouidi Fati Alice Laure** Conseillère Technique du Ministre de l'Habitat et de l'Urbanisme
Burundi	**Mr. Marcel Bibonimana** Directeur de l'Habitat
Cameroon	**Mr. Sipliant Takougang** Urban Governance Programme, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Yaoundé
Central African Republic	**Mr. Gabriel Tanguy Ngouamido** Directeur Général de l'Habitat, Point Focal ONU HABITAT
Central African Republic	**Mr. Gabriel Tanguy Ngouamido** Directeur Général de l'Habitat, Point Focal ONU HABITAT
Chad	**Mr. Abdelhadi Abdoulaye** Architecte, Directeur de l'Habitat de l'Architecture et de l'Ingénierie
Chad	**Mr. Senoussi Ahmat Senoussi** Vice--président de l'Ordre National des Architectes

Comoros	**Mr. Hamid Abasse Aboubacar** Directeur de l'Agence Nationale pour l'Habitat	
Comoros	**Mr. Mohamed Abdou** Directeur de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat	
République Démocratique du Congo	**Mr. Claude Pombo** Directeur Habitat au Secrétariat Général à l'Urbanisme et Habitat de la République Démocratique du Congo	
Djibouti	**Mr. Habib Ibrahim Mohamed** Sous-Directeur de l'Urbanisme	
Ethiopia	**Mr. Salih Booker** Advisor to the Executive Secretary, Social Development Policy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	
Ethiopia	**Ms. Sandra Zawedde** Economic Commission for Africa	
Ethiopia	**Mr. Alemakef Tassew Kebede** Head, Department of Statistics, Research and Development, Ministry of Urban Development and Construction	
Ethiopia	**Mr. Belay File Garoma** International Institute of Social Studies	
Gambia	**Mr. Bulli Dibba** Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Regional Government	
Gambia	**Ms. Tobaski Njie Sarr** Kpalime, Togo	
Ghana	**Honourable Akwasi Opong-Fosu** Minister for Local Government and Rural Development	
Ghana	**Ms. Ellen Oteng Nsiah** Housing the Masses	
Guinea Bissau	**Mr. Fernando Jorge Rocha Pinho Bradao** Ministry of Infrastructure, Guinea Bissau	
Kenya	**H.E. Dr. Martin Kimani** Permanent Representative of Kenya to UN-Habitat	
Kenya	**Ms. Mariamu El Maawy** Principal Secretary, Ministry of lands, Housing & Urban Development	
Kenya	**Ms. Esther Mwaura** National Coordinator, GROOTS	

Kenya	**Mr. George Ndungu** Organization of African Youth	
Kenya	**Ms. Gladys Nthenya** Greater Nairobi Region Representative, Programme Development Office, Regional Centres of Expertise Kenya	
Kenya	**Mr. Mark Nzioka** Camera Person, Video Department	
Kenya	**Mr. Norbert Sangura** Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC Kenya)	
Kenya	**Mr. Rashid Idi** Cameraman, Newsroom Department	
Kenya	**Ms. Ruth Baru** English correspondent, Video Department	
Kenya	**Mr. Victor Moturi** PAMOJA FM Head of Programs, Media	
Kenya	**Mr. Wafula Nabutola** Kenya Private Sector Alliance	
Lesotho	**Ms. Masetori Makhetha** Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship and Parliamentary Affairs	
Lesotho	**Ms. Mpho Mabetha** Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship and Parliamentary Affairs	
Liberia	**Mr. Bestman Toe** Chairman, Slum Dwellers International of Liberia	
Madagascar	**Ms. Hantalalaina Rakotondravelo** Coordinatrice Nationale de l'association DRV qui est un partenaire de l'ONU-HABITAT Madagascar	
Madagascar	**Mr. Rabe Harimana** Directeur des Villes et de la Planification Territoriale	
Madagascar	**Ms. Tiana Randrianasoloarimina** Directeur General de l'Aménagement du Territoire, Madagascar	
Malawi	**Mr. Harvey Chimaliro** Executive Director, Concerned Youth Organization	
Malawi	**Mr. Felix Tukula** Commissioner for Physical Planning Ministry of Lands and Housing	

Mali	**Mr. Idrissa Maiga à l'ong Grad** Secrétaire Général. ONG/Société civile
Mali	**Mr. Moussa Sissoko** Coordinateur de la Cellule "Villes du Mali sans Bidonvilles"
Mozambique	**Mr. Domingos Augusto Macucule** UEM-FAPF University
Mozambique	**Ms. Maria Santos** Architect, Chief, Housing Department
Niger	**Mr. Dodo Abdou** President, AMN NIGER
Niger	**Mr. Serkindia Assoumane** Point Focal de ONU Habitat au Niger et Président de l'Equipe - Pays du Niger pour les études du Programme Participatif d'Amélioration des Bidonvilles Niger
Nigeria	**H.E. Akin Oyateru** High Commissioner to Kenya and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat
Nigeria	**Arc. Musa M Sada** Overseeing Minister of Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
Nigeria	**Mr. Mark Eddo** Mark Eddo Media
Nigeria	**Mr. Aethelbirth Muoka** Director, Planning, Research & Statistics, Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development,
Nigeria	**Ms. Edna Tobi** Deputy Director, Multilateral Programmes, Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Nigeria
Nigeria	**Mr. Charles Enwefah** National Union of Tenants of Nigeria
Nigeria	**Mr. Barnabas Atiyaye** Envicons
Nigeria	**Mr. Charles Enwefah** National Union of Tenants of Nigeria
Nigeria	**Mr Ibrahim Isiaku** Principal Town Planning Officer, Dept of Urban and Regional Development, Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
Nigeria	**Ms. Mary Anne Ikoku** Infovision

Nigeria	**Ms. Morenike Babalola** Heights of Hope Centre for Women	
Nigeria	**Professor Mustapha Zubairu** Center for Human Settlements and Urban Developments	
Nigeria	**Mr. O. A. Lana** Assistant Director, Dept of Urban and Regional Development, Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development	
Nigeria	**Mr. Paul Oyeniran Okunlola** Programme Manager, Habitat Support Office	
Nigeria	**Mr. Roland Uwakwe** Principal Town Planning Officer, Dept of Urban and Regional Development, Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development	
Nigeria	**Mr. Samuel Daramola** Institute of Environment, Research and Development	
Nigeria	**Honourable Sani Umar Kalgo** Chair, House Committee on Housing and Habitat, Nigeria	
Nigeria	**Mr. Roland Uwakwe** Principal Town Planning Officer, Dept of Urban and Regional Development, Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development	
Rwanda	**Mr. Edward Kyazze** Head of Division in Charge Housing, Urban Planning and Development	
Rwanda	**Mr. Edward Kyazze** Head of Division in Charge Housing, Urban Planning and Development	
Senegal	**Mr. Oumar Sow** Directeur de l'Urbanisme et de l'Architecture	
Seychelles	**Mr. Michael Charlette** Personal Assistant to the Minister, Ministry of Land Use and Housing	
Seychelles	**Ms. Nanete Monthy** Senior Housing Officer	
Sierra Leone	**Mr. Alphajoh Cham** Urban and Environmental Planning Advisor, Ministry of Lands, Country Planning and the Environment	
Sierra Leone	**Ms. Isata Fatou** Finance and Savings Manager of the Sierra Leone Housing Corporation	
Somalia	**Mr. Mohamed Ahmed** Architecture, Urban Heritage Center	

Somalia	**Mr. Olali M.E Opuene Jr** Vice Mayor of Mogadishu in Charge of Urban Planning
Somalia	**Mr. Ali Ahmed Gure** Deputy Mayor of Mogadishu
Somalia	**Mr. Iman Nur Icar** Vice Mayor of Mogadishu in charge of Urban planning
South Sudan	**Mr. Peter Pitya** Focal point from South Sudan's Ministry of Land Housing and Physical Planning
Sudan	**Mr. Mohammed Gorani** Senior Lecturer at the University of Khartoum
Sudan	**Eng. Sabiel Abdelrasoul Ishaq** Secretary General of the National Council for Physical Development
Tanzania	**Ms. Sara Kyessi** Principal Town Planning Officer, Dept of Urban and Regional Development, Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
Togo	**Mr. Simeon Konou** Director- Local Development / Governance Locale
Uganda	**Honourable Daudi Migereko** Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development
Uganda	**Ms. Rosemary Mukasa** Deputy Permanent of Uganda to UNEP and UN-Habitat
Zambia	**Ms. Beauty Chola** People's Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia
Zambia	**Mr. Misheck Lungu** Acting Director, Department of Housing & Infrastructure Development (DHID), Ministry of Local Government and Housing
Zimbabwe	**Mr. Ariel Kagu** Executive Director of ZINAHCO
Zimbabwe	**Ms. Ethel Mlalazi** Director Physical Planning
Zimbabwe	**H.E Kelibert Nkomani** Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNEP and UN-Habitat

MEDIA		
Kenya	**Mr. Anthony Aisi** Editor, Environment Department	
Kenya	**Mr. Anthony Muhatia** Cameraman, Department of Technical TV	
Kenya	**Mr. Benjamin Niui** Cameraman, News Department	
Kenya	**Ms. Caroline Kiiru** Global Village Partnerships, Senior Editor, Editorial Department	
Kenya	**Ms. Charity Kimani** KTN Reporter, Editorial Department	
Kenya	**Ms. Diana Meso Dayanii** Reporter, Kenya News Agency	
Kenya	**Mr. Eric Akasa** Media	
Kenya	**Ms. Florence Gathuita** Good news broadcasting system. Reporter, News	
Kenya	**Mr. George Kabaso** The People Daily, Reporter, Business Department	
Kenya	**Mr. George Okore** News from Africa, Correspondent, Editorial Department	
Kenya	**Joyous Begisen** News Reporter, Editorial Department	
Kenya	**Mr. Kelvin Waniohi** Reporter, The Governor's Diary	
Kenya	**Mr. Khamis Swalleh** Reporter, Broadcasting Department China Radio International	
Kenya	**Mr. Mark Nzioka** Camera Person, Video Department	
Kenya	**Mr. Naftali Mwaura Muigai** Xinhua, Reporter, Department of Editorial	

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS	
South Africa	**Ms. Susan Parnell** Africa Centre for Cities, South Africa
Côte d'Ivoire	**Ms. Pauline Yao** Board Member, Habitat International Coalition Côte d'Ivoire
Tanzania	**Honourable Nancy Abisai** Member of the East African Legislative Assembly Tanzania
Ethiopia	**Ms. Semia Tapia** Economic Commission for Africa Ethiopia
Tanzania	**Mr. Fredrick Ngezebuhoro** Member, East African Legislative Assembly Tanzania
Kenya	**Ms. Aarti Shah** Hear of Government Relations, Africa Reuters, Kenya
Kenya	**Mr. Jacobs Gasant** Head of Business Development, Tax and Accounting, Thomson Reuters Kenya
Malawi	**Mr. Neil Webster** Regional Technical Advisor, Local Development Finance, UNCDF Malawi
Belgium	**Mr. Peter Rene Hohmann** Senior Urban Specialist, Cities Alliance, Brussels, Belgium

ANNEX II: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

DAY	SESSION	RECOMMENDATIONS
DAY 1	**Session 2:** Taking Stock of Urbanization in Africa	Urbanization has to be seen as an opportunity, a driving force and a potential for creating stability, economic growth and development, and for reducing inequality, etc. This narrative needs to be developed at regional, national and local levels and linked to issues of climate change, gender, environment, youth inequality.
		There is a need in the future for political intervention, new partnership, new innovation and economic development, strategic planning and promotion of the Urban Agenda at national, regional and local context.
		There is need to develop data and knowledge platforms as well as a well-established institutional framework to address the urbanisation challenge;
		There is a need to address the three great challenges of urbanisation, namely, management of urban growth in a sustainable manner, growth of cities and reduction of urban poverty, the spread of informal settlements in urban areas;
		Governments should increase financial allocation and contributions to urban issues;
		There is a need to encourage Public Private Partnership;
		There is a need to invest in people and the environment;
		There are currently no indicators to monitor and measure urbanisation in Africa, and yet these need to be developed.
	Session 3: Institutional and Legal Reforms	There is a need for greater empowerment of local governments; Urbanization is here to stay, but the means of making cities sustainable remains a major concern.
	Session 5: The Global Perspective	There is a need for UN-Habitat and its development partners to work towards proposing a post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal (SGD) to achieve *'Sustainable cities and Human settlements'* with targets to include; improved spatial configuration and living conditions, enabling legislation as well as enabling conditions for youth employment, urban safety and resilient cities;
		A stand-alone SGD on urbanization is important but due consideration should be given to both form and function.
		A bottom-up approach is necessary and Communities must be the starting point for Habitat III and post-MDGs discussions. Mayors must therefore actively participate in these processes alongside Ministers;

DAY	SESSION	RECOMMENDATIONS
		The continuum of urbanization, from villages to small market towns and cities must not be lost in the Habitat III debates;
		Private sector involvement is key, alongside that of governments and other actors, but they must also appreciate their role in society and to get involved irrespective of conditions for involvement;
		Parliamentarians are policy makers, and are responsible for resource allocation. For them to make good policies they must be fully aware of the issues. The Global Parliamentarians Forum would be a good starting point to mobilize this group of stakeholders;
		Capacity building for policy making and implementation at Ministry level should be prioritized;
		The relationship between CSOs and governments is often not a smooth one. Towards Habitat III and the SGDs, platforms must be harnessed to strengthen this linkage for harmonized solutions towards sustainable urbanization;
		Governments and partners are encouraged to contribute to the Habitat III Trust Fund which is now operational;
		AU 2063 vision is a very important consideration for shaping Africa's positions in Habitat III and post MDGs and the AU role in this process should be clear;
		The scope of Habitat III needs to be wider than that of Habitat II and move beyond the guidelines for national reports currently in place;
		There should be an international monitoring mechanism for the new urban agenda. UN-Habitat should take this role and evaluate progress.
DAY 2	**Session 6:** The Continent's Long Term Vision	Africa has to plan ahead because development is ongoing. We should see cities as business enterprises, a place of growth. The commitment of African leadership and strong political will is most needed. Also, both political will and strong financial backing are needed for an enduring Africa urban agenda;
		Institutional capacity is still very low. There is a need for new curriculum tailored at achieving Africa urban agenda;
		There is a strong need for capacity building amongst African nations to strengthen internal relationship/partnership amongst our own people;
		Strong governments require good public financial management to build a foundation for governance. These elements could be initially mandatory (budgets, accounting, systems, etc) before creating a foundation for development;
		There is a need to look at own source revenues, such as Municipal Bonds, which could be allocated to the appropriate areas.

DAY	SESSION	RECOMMENDATIONS
	Session 7: Preparation of Habitat III Reports	Adoption of a New Africa Urban Agenda agenda is a critical component of the Habitat III preparatory process to. Fresh ideas are required to drive the process and new economic development models adopted. Planning needs capital, there is therefore a need to generate municipal bonds to develop activities that would also boost youth employment.
		The Conference has given African nations an opportunity to share ideas in preparation for Habitat III in 2016. These efforts should be developed and a credible platform raised to ensure Africa derives the maximum benefits from landmark conference;
		To ensure effective reporting, African countries should follow the guidelines provided by UN-Habitat. The preparatory process of national reports MUST be inclusive, and partners must come together to create a common agenda. Further, the preparatory process is urgent and must begin immediately;
		National reports have the purpose to assess the Habitat agenda. It is important that these reports are aligned with national development priorities and the MDGs.
	Session 8: Partners Voices	**GROUP 1:**
		The local government is vital to Africa's Urban Agenda. Central governments should do more in terms of Decentralisation and Devolution as Local governments are not always well represented in policy decision making.
		To strengthen partnership between local and national government, Africa needs to have a long time development plan, as well as a paradigm shift. There are cross border potentials, while trans-border growth of localities requires urban planning tools and implementation.
		GROUP 2:
		GROUP 3:
		There is a lack of adequate affordable housing, which is an issue that needs to be addressed in partnership with the private sector. Government cannot tackle this challenge alone.
		There is need to undertake a gap analysis of the relationship between state and non-state actors.
		Governments are very rigid and bureaucratic. It is difficult for them to accommodate the opinion of CSOs. Capacity building and institutional reform must be addressed in this regard.
		AfDB, World Bank and UN-Habitat should form closer alliances.
		There is need to look for new and innovative ways of mobilizing resources.

DAY	SESSION	RECOMMENDATIONS
		Governments should respect the rights of all people (slum dwellers, for example)
		Politicians should avoid technical issues that they do not understand.
		Issues must be addressed from the bottom up as well as from the top-down.
		Existing methodologies implemented by governments must be readdressed in order to involve CSO to a greater extent. We need a third 'P' (Is it third or fourth?) when it comes to partnership, private sector, public sector to include the people. Issues must be addressed from a grassroots level.
		Governments need to be held accountable and made more transparent. Committees for all players should be put in place to aid with transparency and also to give a voice to all concerned parties. CSOs in particular should be involved and can help to undertake monitoring and evaluation. The people currently don't have much 'access' to our governments – this must be addressed.
		There are many good examples to be learnt from African countries close to Europe (please give at least two examples) National forums should be put in place to give CSO a platform to discuss the issues they are concerned with. A participatory approach must be adopted when formulating country level reports. These should not be done by government alone, or in parallel, but together. Africans need to speak with one voice.
		Knowledge and information sharing is key here, as well as monitoring. There are no reliable means of measuring existing partnerships.
DAY 3	**Session 9:** Resources, Tools and Methods	Africa has a significant capacity deficiency and thus requires partnerships at various levels especially with the UN agencies. Nevertheless, these agencies are required to be more coordinated and work together for new Africa urban agenda;
		Data is lacking and often mismanaged. There is need for comprehensive data bank on housing, population etc. Most Planning tools are outdated, new tools are required because of constant value changes. There is need for value change analysis and adoption of national data management strategies;
		Africa has lacked a coherent development agenda under the colonial era. The African Development Bank and similar institutions will be involved in developing this strategy. There is a need to create a new mind set on policy and planning in Africa.
		In order to address existing technological challenges, big investors need to be encouraged to join efforts to update data on population and housing, using new technologies.

ANNEX III: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

ISSUES	SUBJECT	RECOMMENDATIONS	PARTNERSHIPS/ROLES
Governance	Decentralisation, devolution Urban Planning Sustainability Approach/Process of Habitat III implementation Youth, women, vulnerable groups involvement Participation/Access Implementation flaws Institutional reform required Abuse of due process by govt Urban policies required to guide planning and implementation	Adopt Participatory approach for Habitat III process Effectively track best practices and success stories by all partners into Habitat III country reports Role of women, youths and vulnerable groups Stakeholders to work in area of strength e.g. Civil society in terms of monitoring, NGO in terms of mobilisation, etc. Capacity building – in-service training, etc. for professionals Relax rigid administrative systems Institutional reform should be bottom-up in approach, involving all Govt should respect due process and rule of law Govt should factor disability issues in planning process and implementation Govt needs to develop effective policy framework in consultation with CSOs, private sector etc	National govt (coordinator) ensure all partner contributions are captured Govt to determine capacity gaps, academia to provide demand driven training Ensure effective access by all stakeholder groups through consultative forums, participatory planning, budgeting, etc. and only collectively agreed projects should be implemented Govt should open access and address problems of harnessing contributions from informal sector CSOs, academia to engage in effective lobbying CSOs should be part of implementation team and contribute to monitoring govt's activity
Finance	Institutional Limitations Transparency and accountability Budgeting Resource mobilization, taxation, etc.	CSOs, other stakeholders to be engaged in resource mobilization strategies Budget implementation ineffective	
Land/Housing	Security of Tenure		
Access to Basic Services	Awareness building/ Education	Grassroots organisations should recognize and harness contributions of the private sector, CSOs, etc.	
Legislation/ Enforce-ment	Gaps in existing legal framework	Review of existing legal framework required at federal, regional and local govt levels	