



**25th SESSION OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL**
17 - 23 APRIL 2015 ♦ NAIROBI

Monday, 20 April 2015 – Venue: Conference Room 9

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Nairobi, Kenya

SIDE EVENT

National Urban Policies and Urban-Rural Linkages

Human Science Research Council (HSRC)

Background

This event will explore the role of National Urban Policies (NUPs) in fostering urban-rural interactions. Such linkages can help to achieve balanced and integrated territorial development, thereby improving social cohesion and building political support for urban policy. The event will bring together diverse experiences of policies to strengthen urban-rural linkages, and distil the key lessons and outstanding challenges for the next generation of NUPs. It will involve a panel of national and international policy-makers and experts who have analyzed and tried to implement policies operating at the urban-rural interface.

Purpose

Urban-rural linkages is an important theme of the 25th session of the Governing Council. UN-Habitat's new urban agenda promotes wide-ranging NUPs that include stronger urban-rural linkages. This recognizes that cities cannot be planned in isolation of their wider regions. Urbanization makes the fortunes of rural and urban areas more interdependent. Rural areas provide natural resources, energy, water and food to cities and towns. Meanwhile, urban areas provide markets, financial resources and technical expertise to rural communities. Strengthening these linkages can boost the performance of both urban and rural areas, i.e. it is of mutual benefit. Hence urban policy is not a matter of promoting the interests of urban areas of rural areas (either/or), but rather promoting the interests of both areas simultaneously to achieve combined benefits. This will make NUPs much more attractive to national governments that are currently rather hesitant about urban policies.

Organizers

It is expected this event will involve the following organisations and institutions: The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), which is the custodian of the HFA and its successor framework; JICA; USAID; UNESCO; and private sector representatives, including from the insurance sector.

Contact

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