



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

Wednesday, 22 April 2015 – Venue: Conference Room 14

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Nairobi, Kenya

SIDE EVENT

UrbanLex, knowledge sharing for effective urban law

UN-Habitat, Urban Legislation Unit

Background

Many urbanisation challenges stem from inadequate legislation that fails to provide a stable framework for long term growth. UrbanLex was created to fill in the knowledge gap on urban legislation, increasing access to the examples that influence development. This platform is then used to develop secondary knowledge and catalyse partnerships.

For example, the taxonomy and descriptors in UrbanLex allow users to quickly focus on specific urban themes, supporting the identification of examples as well as supporting more advanced comparative analysis. The progressive linking of instruments to selected secondary knowledge takes this further, by providing users with experiences in the implementation of instruments.

Regional partner “hubs” support the population of the database but also create a locally relevant partnership to explore issues and develop solutions.

Purpose

- Effective urban legislation will be fundamental in achieving the Post-2015 Goal of sustainable cities and human settlements by establishing national and local benchmarks and accountability for targets.
- Develop new knowledge, document existing good practices, identify, pilot and adapt tools and implementing operational projects in relevant thematic areas;
- Empower government officials and citizens, giving them access to legislative materials.

Objectives:

- Showcase the content and the structure of the database on the seven critical areas of urban law that are essential to the sustainability and development of urban areas.
- Highlight the potential of the database for purposes of comparative analysis and as a means to catalyse partnerships to improve the quality of urban law.

Contact

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