

IMPLEMENTING THE **NEW URBAN AGENDA**

Side Event Advertisement

Monday, 8 May 2017, Conference room 11

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Nairobi, Kenya

Taking Action to implement the New Urban Agenda through Urban Thinkers Campuses

Organized by Arcadis

Background

The World Urban Campaign builds on the main legacy of the Habitat II Conference (Istanbul, 1996). In particular, the Campaign comes as a direct response to the need for partnerships between governments and civil society organizations, local authorities, the private sector, the research community, trade unions, parliamentarians, professional organizations, youth and women groups, in order to achieve sustainable urban development. This spirit of partnership was first concretized after the Conference by two global campaigns (1999) on the themes of *Secure Tenure* and *Good Urban Governance*. Those two campaigns were merged in 2009 to form the World Urban Campaign, a single forward looking strategic campaign to mobilize networks of Habitat Agenda partners to implement a shared vision of sustainable urbanization. The WUC is part of UN-Habitat's work programme. It is governed by a steering committee, composed of UN-Habitat partner organizations, and acts as an advisory body to UN-Habitat's Executive Director. Its Secretariat is coordinated by UN-Habitat.

Arcadis has been a strong partner of the World Urban Campaign for the past 7 years, and is committed to support the processes outlined. Arcadis will use its own private sector networks to mobilize business partners to attend this side event. Furthermore, as a sponsor of the World Urban Campaign, Arcadis will utilize the WUC channels to promote the event (newsletter, social media, mailing list, website etc.)

Arcadis will, together with the World Urban Campaign partners and in particular the WUC Implementation Framework, follow up directly with other non-state actors on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and The City We Need. A first stock-taking will have taken place at the 17th World Urban Campaign Steering Committee Meeting, to be held in May 2017 just before the 26th UN-Habitat Governing Council in Nairobi/Kenya. Furthermore, in preparation for the World Urban Forum 9, Arcadis will join forces with the

WUC partners to follow up on the status of implementation of the action plans decided upon in the various Urban Thinkers Campuses.

Relevance to the GC26 theme

Arcadis, through its long-standing partnership with UN-Habitat, is fully committed to the organization's mandate and is strongly involved in the promotion of socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities. Through this side event, Arcadis wishes to provide space for exchange to discuss the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The 74 Urban Thinkers Campuses selected to take place in 2017 cover various thematic areas, and this thematic diversity will allow the attendees to discuss in greater details the need for inclusive, sustainable and adequate housing, as well as the importance of synergies and financing mechanisms for sustainable urbanization. Through its pro-bono service partnership, Arcadis will furthermore be in a position to give useful insights in the integrated human settlements planning, and the importance of the collaboration between the United Nations and the private sector.

Objectives

The side event will bring together key urban stakeholders to exchange views and ideas on the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In detail, the aim of the event is to briefly recap The City We Need as well as the Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) processes, in particular the UTC Phase 2 to be held in 2017, and then allow for panel discussions on the role of these processes in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the post-Habitat III era. The side event shall allow for the presentation of initial commitments and action plans resulting from Urban Thinkers Campuses held up to the date of the event.

Key questions will drive the debate of this side event:

1. What are the key principles and critical drivers of change to implement the New Urban Agenda?
2. What will be your practical commitments to implement the New Urban Agenda ?
3. What will be the role of Urban Thinkers Campuses ? On what issues and solutions your Urban Thinkers Campuses would focus ? What will be the particular follow-up and actions ?

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