



Concept Note

The Second Global Stakeholder Forum

Nairobi, Kenya 3 to 4 June 2023

Theme:

Stakeholders' perspective of inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism within the context of a sustainable urban future and achieving the sustainable development goals in times of global crises.

1. Introduction

The positive contribution of stakeholders to discussions on multilateralism for the promotion of peace and development in general, and in the context of housing and sustainable urban development is respectively recognized in the UN Secretary General's report on [Our Common Agenda](#) and the [theme paper on multilateralism for the UN-Habitat Assembly](#) (UNHA). Emphasis is placed on deepening solidarity between member states, the UN system and stakeholders working together toward renewal of the social contract between governments and the people.

During the First UNHA in 2019, over 200 participants from different stakeholder groups took part in two days of deliberations at the First Global Stakeholder Forum (GSF) leading to the adoption of '[A new social compact for the New Urban Agenda](#)' which was presented to the UNHA. Since then, considerable progress and better understanding of the critical role of various stakeholders in the implementation of the [New Urban Agenda](#) (NUA) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) have emerged and are evolving.

The Second GSF (due to take place 3-4 June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya) offers a strategic opportunity for all stakeholders to organise themselves and effectively engage ahead of the second session of the UNHA scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 5 to 9 June 2023. The GSF will be convened by the UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) in partnership with other stakeholders, as with the first session in 2019. The GSF aims to create the opportunity for stakeholders to define and discuss the practice and implementation of inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism from the point of view of stakeholders and prepare inputs to the Assembly. The Forum will facilitate a dialogue on the UN-Habitat Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (SEM) which is envisaged in the UN-Habitat Stakeholder Engagement Policy (SEP) expected to be adopted at the UNHA. The outcome will be a stakeholder declaration as a contribution to the discussions at the UNHA.

2. Themes and Sub-themes

The GSF will center around the theme of the UNHA which is "A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in times of global crises." The Forum is expected to capture the diversity of stakeholder voices on

inclusive and effective multilateralism based on the themes and sub-themes discussed during the Assembly, and to strive for consolidation. To this end, the GSF will address multilateralism in the context of sustainable urban development from the stakeholder's perspective in general, with specific emphasis on housing, urban crisis, climate change, equal prosperity, and localization of SDGs and NUA. The aspect of multilateralism ties with the GSFs previous themes by encompassing the role of multilateral organisations in development and use of strategies and mechanisms for collaboration, cooperation, and innovation around sustainable urban development at global, regional, national, and local levels. Addressing the nature of urbanization and human settlements development amidst global crises requires meaningful engagement to enable all stakeholders to benefit from and contribute to inclusive and effective multilateralism.

3. Stakeholder engagement

The GSF serves as a platform for stakeholders to consider how to take forward and share their experiences and highlight key challenges at intergovernmental meetings. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to explore potential areas of collaboration including working with the Local2030 coalition, with the United Nations system regional and country teams, with the Group of 7, the Group of 20 and other multilateral forums; and working with national, subnational, and local governments, bilateral institutions, academia, civil society, professionals, private sector, communities, and grassroots and informal settlements organisations at all levels. Some key principles outlined in the stakeholder engagement policy that inform stakeholder engagement are as follows:

- a. *The intergovernmental nature of UN Habitat processes:* decision-making within UN-Habitat is the prerogative of Member States.
- b. *Accessibility to public information:* acknowledging the critical importance of consistent, timely, and accurate information for meaningful stakeholder engagement, UN-Habitat ensures access to public documents and information related to UN-Habitat intergovernmental meetings in a timely manner.
- c. *Equality, non-discrimination, diversity of views and self-organisation:* all parties acknowledge that there is diversity of views, and are committed to a fair, transparent, open, constructive, accountable, and accessible engagement process in so far as such engagement remains relevant to the mandate and work of UN-Habitat.
- d. *Transparency, accountability, and mutual benefit:* engagement is based on the premise of mutual trust and benefit, transparency, responsibility, and accountability.

Since the First Session of the UNHA, stakeholders' contribution to the ad hoc working group on SEP has been extensive. Stakeholders continue to engage in the meetings of the Executive Board and Committee of Permanent Representatives. Altogether, 214 organisations have participated, and 39 oral and written statements have been delivered by 10 organisations comprising non-governmental organisations (3), local government associations (2), advisory boards (2), a professional association (1) and intergovernmental organisations (2). The GSF will also review the proposed SEM whose main function is to enhance structural stakeholder

engagement in UN-Habitat intergovernmental meetings based on the principle of self-organisation and effective and balanced representation. The GSF will facilitate better understanding among stakeholders of the SEP and SEM and broad partnership engagement approaches to multilateralism.

4. Participants

The GSF will be open to accredited stakeholders and special guests of UN-Habitat, member states, local authorities, UN agencies and other development actors. The UN-Habitat stakeholders represented will include: (i) Civil society, (ii) Private sector, (iii) Women, (iv) Children and Youth, (v) Local and Regional Governments, (vi) Academia and Researchers, (vii) Professionals, (viii) Workers and Trade Unions, (ix) Indigenous peoples, (x) Persons with Disabilities, (xi) Older persons, (xii) Foundations, (xiii) Media, (xiv) Grassroots and informal sector, (xv) Parliamentarians, and (xvi) Farmers. Special efforts will be made to include representatives of accredited regional organisations, migrant and refugee associations and volunteer organisations.

5. Objectives

The objectives of the Second GSF are:

- a. To provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss and develop a common understanding of inclusive and effective multilateralism in the context of sustainable urban development and to prepare stakeholder's input into the Assembly, especially a declaration.
- b. To review the SEM functions and its structural operationalisation based on the principles of self-organisation and effective and balanced representation.
- c. To explore specific strategies, opportunities and entry points for collaboration and cooperation of stakeholders with multilateral institutions, national and local governments, and other actors in the fight against global crises with a focus on housing, climate, prosperity, localization, and crisis recovery, among other issues. This should be based on stakeholder inputs (recommendations) made since the last UNHA in 2019.
- d. To give the opportunity to the stakeholders to provide observations around relevant proposed resolutions. These include International guidelines on people-centered smart cities; Accelerating Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030; and World Clean Up Day), Biodiverse and Resilient Cities.
- e. To share UN-Habitat SDG localization approach including Local 2030, SDG cities, certification of cities, and stakeholder engagement in monitoring of SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.
- f. To update and review upcoming events for strategic stakeholder participation.

6. Expected Outcomes

The GSF will endeavor to provide stakeholders with a clearer perspective on the SEM and its implementation and understanding of inclusive and effective multilateralism within the context of sustainable cities and communities. Stakeholders are expected to provide perspectives on the

urban agenda specific strategies on housing, climate, prosperity, localization, and crisis recovery, among other issues. These perspectives will guide member states in their role of providing policy coherence and recommendations.

The expected outcomes of the GSF include:

- a. The declaration on multilateralism, which encompasses the sub-themes raised by stakeholders and further clarifies and promotes the objectives of urban sustainability, inclusivity, prosperity, localization, etc.
- b. The validation, introduction of the SEM. The discussion will include the Terms of Reference, the role and the governance structure of the SEM.
- c. The proposed responses of stakeholders to selected resolutions from Member States.
- d. The way forward for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).
- e. The participation of stakeholders at upcoming events.

7. Call for Participation.

The Forum will be open to accredited stakeholders and special guests of UN-Habitat, member states, local authorities, UN agencies and other development actors. To ensure that the forum is productive, interactive, and valuable for all involved, we encourage partners to express their interest to contribute to different sessions outlined in the programme.

We invite partners to commit to participate and contribute to the different sections of the programme. The Second GSF's programme is divided into various sections, and partners can choose the areas they are interested in and contribute to them. The contributions can be in the form of ideas, expertise, or collaborations.

8. Format

The GSF will be conducted in a hybrid format allowing in-person and online attendance. Stakeholders are encouraged to attend in person following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. Activities follow the structure of the First GSF consisting of plenary, panel, and group discussions, jointly led by stakeholders with UN-Habitat support. An actionable outcome statement of the Forum will be submitted to the UN-Habitat Secretariat, UNHA, and the UN-Habitat Executive Board.

9. Modalities for the Forum

The Forum will be conducted in English only.

Contacts

Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise

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The Second Global Stakeholder Forum

United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya, 3 to 4 June 2023

Meeting Link: [Click here](#)

Theme:

Stakeholders' perspective of inclusive, networked, and effective multilateralism within the context of a sustainable urban future and achieving the sustainable development goals in times of global crises.

Provisional Agenda

Day One: Saturday, 3 June, 9:00am to 5:00pm, Conference Room 1

Co-Chairs: Professor Siraj Sait, Director, Noon Center, University of East London, United Kingdom and Co-Chair, Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE)

Ms. Dyan Currie, Chief Planner, Brisbane City Council, Australia, and Co-Chair, SAGE

9:00am – 9.45am Registration

9.45am – 10.30am **Opening Session**
The Role of Stakeholders in the UN Habitat Environment

Moderator: Professor Siraj Sait, Director, Noon Center, University of East London

- *Introductory remarks by Professor Siraj Sait*
- *Welcome Remarks by Neil Khor, Special Adviser to the Executive Director, and a.i Director, External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge, and Innovation Division*
- *Review of progress on the declaration of the first Global Stakeholder Forum*
- *Overview of Forum and objectives*

10:30am - 11:20am **Roundtable on Effective Multilateralism at UN Habitat**

Co-Moderators: Mr. Pablo Fernandez Marmissolle Daguerre, United Cities and Local Governments – Latin America Region, (UCLG-LAC)
Dr. Adriana Allen, President, Habitat International Coalition

- *Overview of the report of the Executive Director on the special theme of the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and the drivers by Mr. Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat - (10 minutes).*

Interventions:

- *Ms. Alice Charles, Director, Cities, Planning and Design, Arup*
- *Mr. Lenin Zambrano, Member, UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, Youth, and Indigenous Representative from Ecuador*
- *Mr. Joseph Schechla, Coordinator, Habitat International Coalition, MENA Region*
- *Mr. Abraham Mateta, Human Rights Officer, Africa Union of the Blind*
- *Dr. Debolina Kundu, National Institute of Urban Studies, India*

Discussion (20 Minutes)

Moderator Summary (5minutes)

11:20am - 12:35pm Roundtable on SDG Localisation approach of UN-Habitat

*Co-Moderators: Ms. Dyan Currie, Chief Planner, Brisbane City Council
Mr. Neil Khor, Special Adviser to the Executive Director, and a.i Director, External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge, and Innovation Division*

- *Voluntary Local Review (VLRs) and Local2030: An Overview by Mr. Martino Miraglia, UN-Habitat (10 minutes)*
- *The Urban Monitoring Framework, SDG 11 reporting and stakeholder engagement aspect by Mr. Robert Ndugwa, Chief, Data and Analytics Section; and Mr. Hannes Lagrelius, Programme Officer, World Blind Union (10 minutes)*
- *SDG Cities and City Certification by Mr. Dyfed Aubrey, Inter-regional Adviser (10 minutes)*

Interventions:

- *Prof. Bruce Stiftel, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, USA*
- *Mr. G Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Odisha, India*
- *Prof. Pauline W. Adebayo, University of KwaZulu-Natal*
- *Mr. Peter Oborn, Chair, Commonwealth Association of Architects, United Kingdom*
- *H.E Mehsan Arshad Mohammed, MD and CEO The MAMS Group, United Arab Emirates*

Discussion (20 minutes)

Moderator summary (5minutes)

12:35pm - 1:35pm Lunch Break

1:35pm -3:00pm Stakeholder Engagement Presentations

Co-Moderators: Professor Eugenie L Birch, President General Assembly of Partners

Interventions:

- *Professor Siraj Sait, Global Land Tool Network*
- *Ms. Sri Sofjan, The World Urban Campaign,*
- *Professor Mona Rady, Chair, Habitat Professional Forum*
- *Ms. Janice Peterson, Huairou Commission and Founder Member of the UN-Habitat Advisory Group on Gender Issues*
- *Ms. Dyan Currie, Chief Planner, Brisbane City Council*

Discussion (7 Minutes)

- Statement by Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat
- *Ms. Rose Molokoane, Slum Dwellers International*
- *Dr. Michael Menaffy, Sustasis Foundation,*
- *Mr. Stephen Seidel, Habitat for Humanity International*
- *Mr. Christopher Dekki, Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport (SLOCAT) Partnership*
- *Mr. Pablo Marmissolle UCLG and Global Task Force*

Discussion (7 Minutes)

- *Dr Lance Brown, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanisation*
- *Ms. Daria Cibario, Public Services International*
- *Mr. Hannes Lagrelius World Blind Union and GAP*
- *Ms. Eleni Mirivilli Arsht Rock Heat Initiative*

Discussion (7 minutes)

Moderator Summary (5 minutes)

3:00pm - 4:00pm: **Potential contributions by stakeholders for implementation and key ingredients for success of Proposed Resolutions**

Co-Moderators: Mr.Hannes Lagrelius, Programme Officer, World Blind Union

Overview on key resolutions by [TBC] *UN-Habitat, Ms. Monika Glintzer, Director, International Relations, Department of Human Settlements, South Africa (15 Minutes)*

- Accelerating Transformation of Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030
- Creation of Human settlements resilience framework
- Enhancing linkages between urbanization and climate change
- World Clean Up Day

- Urban Planning and Sustainable Infrastructure
- People-Centered Smart Cities
- Biodiversity
- Equitable Financing and Effective implementation of resolutions to be adopted by the Assembly.

Working session: break into small groups to develop commitments on what stakeholders can do to support the proposed resolutions. (20 minutes)

- Report back from subgroups (10 minutes).
- Discussions (7 minutes)
- Moderator summary (3 minutes)

4:00pm – 4.50pm **What would a Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism look like?**

*Moderators: Professor Siraj Sai, Director, Noon Center, University of East London
Ms. Mino Ramaroson, Vice Chair, Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)*

- Overview of Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism, by *Ms. Lucia Kiwala, Head, Partnerships Unit, UN-Habitat*

Moderator summary and working group discussions for the next day.

4:50pm - 5:00pm **Plenary Session**

Moderator: Ms Dyan Currie, Chief Planner, Brisbane City Council

- Work plan for next day

Day Two: Sunday, 4 June, 9:00am to 2:30pm, Conference Room 9

9:00am – 9.45am - **Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism**

*Moderator- Professor Siraj Sait, Director, Noon Center, University of East London
Ms. Mino Ramaroson, Vice Chair, Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)*

Interventions:

- *Ms. Mona Rady, The Habitat Professionals,*
- *Mr. Joseph Schechla, Habitat International Coalition*
- *Mr. George Wasonga, Civil Society Urban Development Programme*
- *Mr. Pablo Sebastián Mariani, UCLG*
- *Ms. Jane Katz, Global Urban Development, and focal point for urbanization for the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction, Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism*

Discussion (20 minutes)

Moderator Summary (5 minutes)

9.45am – 11.45am - Working Groups

Working Group on Multilateralism

Moderators: *Mr. Pablo Fernandez Marmissolle Daguerre, United Cities and Local Governments – Latin America Region, (UCLG-LAC)*
Dr Adriana Allen, HIC

Interventions:

Mr. Wang Kai, President of China Academy of Urban Planning and Design (CAUPD)
Hon. Lawrence Biyika Songa, Parliament of Uganda

SDG Localisation and Local 2030

Moderators: *Mr. Sandeep Chachra, ActionAid India*
Professor Lance Brown, Consortium for Sustainable Urban Development

- *Ms. Sally Nduta, Executive Director, the United Disabled Person of Kenya*
- *Ms. Sequins, Mucavele, Rural Farmers Women, Mozambique*
- *Ms. Rebecca Chong, Habitat for Humanity*

Social inclusion, disability, and human rights

Moderators: Mr.Hannes Lagrelius, Programme Officer, World Blind Union
Mr. Lenin Zambrano, Member, UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, Youth, and Indigenous Representative from Ecuador

- *Ms. Lydia Stazen, Homelessness Institute*
- *S M Shaikat, Executive Director*
- *Prof. Ines Sanchez, Chair, UN-Habitat Advisory Group on Gender Issues*

9:45am – 12:15pm - Drafting Committee

Professor Siraj Sait, Director, Noon Center, University of East London
Professor Eugenie Birch, University of Pennsylvania

11:45am - 12:45pm Plenary Session

Moderator: Ms. Dyan Currie, Chief Planner, Brisbane City Council

- Overview of the United Nations Habitat Assembly and the role of stakeholders by *Mr. Chris Mensah, Secretary to the Governing Bodies, UN Habitat– (10 Minutes)*
- Brief on HLPF, UN-Habitat and stakeholder engagement opportunities by *Mr. Christopher Williams, Director, UN-Habitat New York Office*
- Report on Working Groups
- Drafting Committee – Draft Declaration

12:45pm - 1:30pm Plenary Session and Closing

- Adoption of Working Groups Reports and Declaration



- Closing Remarks by *Mr. Michal Mlynár, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat*

1.30pm - 2.00pm – **Lunch**
