



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

Monday, 20 April 2015 – Venue: Conference Room 14
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Nairobi, Kenya

SIDE EVENT

**Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages
across the Continuum of Human Settlements
to Harness the Transformative Power of Urbanization
for Sustainable Development
through land and conflict management**

Habitat for Humanity

Background

Land and the conflict over land-related resources, are increasingly becoming a driver of violence, instability and intra-state or cross border conflict, posing an increasing global challenge. This will only increase in the next decades due to the effects of climate change, food insecurity, limited natural resources and unsustainable urban growth.

UN engagement is needed around a common agenda that includes land issues as an integral part of conflict prevention, peace agreements and peacebuilding, humanitarian and development efforts. The knowledge and experience developed so far indicate the need to prioritize conflict prevention and ensure that all crisis response feeds into continued and sustainable action resulting in longer term stability.

Preliminary discussions started from the assumption that land, and the conflict over land-related resources, are increasingly becoming a driver of violence, instability and intra-state or cross border conflict, posing an increasing global challenge. This will only increase in the next decades due to the effects of climate change, food insecurity, limited natural resources and unsustainable urban growth.

The Purpose of this side event is to raise awareness on how much UN engagement is needed around a common agenda that includes land issues as an integral part of conflict prevention, peace agreements and peacebuilding, humanitarian and development efforts. The knowledge and experience developed so far indicate the need to prioritize conflict prevention and ensure that all crisis response feeds into continued and sustainable action resulting in longer term stability. This directly responds to the proposed Urban Goal 11.a and Proposed Goal 16.3 that is aimed at promoting the rule of law at national and international level.

It will show case country work in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somaliland, showing how a concerted effort in responding to conflict situations enhances sustainable development, responding to the rural-urban nexus in the process.

Purpose

Urban–Rural continuum in the face of disaster. Disasters such as floods, hurricanes and mudslides sometimes prompt the migration of communities into urban areas, leading to pockets of internally displaced people (IDPs). Conflicts also may lead to mass displacement of communities into urban areas. Proper planning is required to avoid humanitarian crises and the proliferation of informal settlements. UN-Habitat should also encourage the development of coping strategies for vulnerable urban groups, and, where appropriate, mechanisms for their resettlement or return to place of origin. UN-Habitat could also work toward the delivery of a more coherent, predictable and effective response to the durable solutions needs of refugee returnees and IDPs.

Mobility and Migration between Urban and Rural Areas. Mobility and migration are some of the most dramatic factors defining the rural-urban continuum. In many cases economic and spatial policies and regulatory frameworks have encouraged urbanization and supported rural–urban mobility. However, as ever larger numbers of people migrated to cities increasingly chaotically, migration came to be seen as problematic.

Institutions involved in organizing and hosting the event

- ❖ Habitat for Humanity International
- ❖ University of East London
- ❖ Slum/Shack Dwellers International
- ❖ Norwegian Refugee Council

Contact

Habitat for Humanity, South Africa