

IMPLEMENTING THE **NEW URBAN AGENDA**

Side Event Advertisement

Wednesday, 10 May 2017, Venue: Conference room 14

Time: 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Nairobi, Kenya

Harnessing the Value of Land for a Transformative Urbanization

Organized by Global Land Tool Network, Habitat for Humanity International (HfHI),
Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for
Development, UN-Habitat

Background:

Land is fundamental for the enjoyment of a wide range of human rights and a key foundation in tackling urbanization challenges. Governance of land is central to reducing inequalities, multi-dimensional poverty, the realization of many human rights, including the right to an adequate standard of living for all (e.g. housing), the right to adequate food and environmental sustainability. It is also important to harness sustainable and transformative urbanization and to improve municipal revenues. Since land cuts across all sectors in human settlements and urban development, urban land management offers unique opportunities in reinvigorating the call and commitment towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, also with the Sustainable Development Goals. Addressing land governance issues therefore underpins poverty reduction, food security, environmental protection and climate change, social justice, peace building, realization of human rights and sustainable housing and urban development.

The New Urban Agenda recognizes the social, ecological and economical functions of land. It highlights the need for securing land tenure for all through the continuum of land rights framework and fit-for-purpose solutions, and improving access to land and natural resources by women and vulnerable groups. The NUA also recognizes the need to protect individuals and communities against forced evictions, promote affordable serviced land and the need for access to public land and properties and responsive land and housing policies. It also emphasizes the need for the sustainable use and management of land and natural resources and has committed actions that will prevent unnecessary land use changes. The NUA also promotes financial sustainability and the need for effective governance frameworks and arrangements. At the core of its implementation, is the need for partnerships at all levels. The need for more innovative and affordable solutions and the need for a holistic and bottom-up approach were reiterated during the Quito Conference by many stakeholders.

The development of the New Urban Agenda was not a single process but involved participation of all relevant actors including those within the land sector. These land actors include key organizations representing women, youth, grassroots and vulnerable groups, civil society organizations, government authorities, UN and multi-lateral agencies, academic organizations, professional bodies and other stakeholders. The process included substantial contribution in the different issue papers, policy units, regional meetings and constant advocacy and information sharing with partners, allies and the society at large. This reaffirms global commitment to sustainable urban development in an integrated and coordinated manner at global, regional, national, sub-national and local level. It is but critical that the same level of commitment from many stakeholders is needed to realize the opportunities offered by the New Urban Agenda.

Relevance to the GC26 theme

The event will bring together relevant actors from various stakeholder representations to elaborate upon the relevant land governance opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It will also draw some lessons learned from Habitat I and II implementation to inform the new direction on how land governance can better contribute to sustainable housing and urban development.

Within the land governance lens, it will highlight how multi-stakeholder partnerships, innovative tools and solutions and capacity development can better implement the New Urban Agenda and therefore ensure that ‘no one is left behind’ in the urbanizing world. It will emphasize the role of land as a cross-cutting resource and a key foundation in achieving adequate shelter for all, integrated human settlements planning and financial sustainability. It will also highlight some challenges related to land management and governance in the context of rapid urbanization to guide and inform the discussion towards the implementation of the NUA.

Objectives

The Side Event aims to achieve the following:

1. Identify where is “land” in the New Urban Agenda and its role in sustainable housing and urban development.
2. Present progress made and lessons learned in the implementation of land-related commitments in the previous Habitat I and II implementation including good practices.
3. Discuss key implementation land governance challenges and opportunities of the New Urban Agenda at various levels.
4. Within the land governance lens, agree on specific actions and recommendations, including roles and responsibilities, towards the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

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