

IMPLEMENTING THE **NEW URBAN AGENDA**

Side Event Advertisement

Monday, 8 May, 2017, Venue: Conference room 14
Time: 2:00 pm – 2:45 pm
Nairobi, Kenya

Urban and Territorial Planning: Towards a healthy environment

Organized by WHO & UN-Habitat

Background

Planners today have a central role in the prevention of diseases in the 21st century, as urban policies define the air we breathe, the quality of the spaces we use and the water we drink, the way we move, as well as access to healthy foods for nutrition and healthcare services. Guidance for planners that informs and enables them to consider health in urban planning is one main mechanism to ensure that the New Urban Agenda delivers healthy, safe, inclusive, and equitable cities¹. Being considered now as a means for the implementation of the NUA², the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IGUTP or the Guidelines) adopted by UN-Habitat's Governing Council in 2015, will contribute substantially to the ability of cities to shape their own sustainable futures. Planning that considers health can identify the policies, plans and designs in territorial planning that aim at the development of a healthy and sustainable built environment. UN-Habitat is being supported by the Government of Norway in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) with aims to localize the IG-UTP for improving the quality of the built environment, resulting in health benefits to urban citizens through the promotion and implementation of this framework.

¹ Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda: United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development, Quito, October 2016.

² Draft outcome document, New Urban Agenda. pp. 13. United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III). Quito, October 2016.

Relevance to the GC26 theme

Healthy urban policies leave no one behind³. In light of this, the Government of Norway is supporting UN-habitat, in collaboration with WHO, for the implementation of the IG-UTP with a specific focus on Urban Health. Additionally, the IG-UTP have been explicitly referred to in the New Urban Agenda (NUA) as a ‘means for its effective implementation’⁴, and thus their value in achieving the goals of the NUA, and consequently the SDGs.

Objective

This event will showcase how health and urban and territorial planning are strongly interlinked, and how healthy urban policies can promote healthy, safe, inclusive and equitable cities as advocated by the New Urban Agenda. Following a short introduction to ‘healthy urban and territorial planning’ by WHO and UN-Habitat, the session will touch upon: 1) How UN-Habitat and partners will guide cities towards healthier-more sustainable development with the use of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP) viewed through the ‘lens’ of health and 2) How WHO can enable the health sector to support urban planning that protects health and delivers sustainability. Lastly, we will make the case for developing a framework for healthy urban planning and a series of case studies where this framework is piloted and further developed. The results expected from the proposed interventions include tools for health sector and urban planning actors and good practice guidance that enable healthy urban planning by cities in developing countries.

Confirmed guest: Government of Norway

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³ Health as the Pulse of the New Urban Agenda: United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development, Quito, October 2016.

⁴ Draft outcome document, New Urban Agenda. pp. 13. United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III). Quito, October 2016.