

Side Event

New Urban Agenda Platform: Fostering Innovation to accelerate Implementation of the NUA towards achieving the SDGs



30 MAY 2019, 13:15 – 14:45



Conference Room 9

EVENT DESCRIPTION

The **New Urban Agenda (NUA) Platform** and the **Member State Reporting Guidelines** on the implementation of New Urban Agenda (to be hosted as a key section of the Platform) will be launched at WUF 10 in February 2020. The NUA Platform responds to the need to enhance the visibility on progress being made on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This requires a clear virtual space for reporting by the Member States, which is easily navigated and guided by the Reporting Guidelines. It also requires a uniform, decentralized storage of key data and documentation including reports, lessons learned, best practices, case studies, and an effective search-engine for tailor-made information searches. Most importantly, incentives need to be put in place for the sharing of progress in implementation, through a systematic and attractive location for reporting and sharing.

The Platform is intended to be a global innovative knowledge management tool for Member States, multiple stakeholders, and the UN family. The Reporting Guidelines and the New Urban Agenda Platform will provide the necessary system required for the future preparations of the UN Secretary General's Quadrennial Report on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The first Quadrennial Report was prepared in 2018 in close consultation with UN regional economic and social commissions, over twenty UN agencies, and other development and research partners. It is expected that by the time of the preparation of the 2022 Quadrennial Report, the Guidelines and Platform will facilitate a robust, comprehensive and collaborative structure for reporting.

The rollout of the Platform is planned in two phases, with the official launch scheduled for WUF 10, followed by a 12-months pilot phase in 2020 to integrate mechanisms and tools to measure performance including testing, refining, and enhancement regularly. It is expected that under this timeline the Platform will by 2021 be fully effective. This side-event forms the first multi-stakeholder consultation on the Road Map to launch the NUA Platform, and is, therefore, a critical

moment to seek feedback and ideas on how to best optimize the design and usage by different users of the Platform. The event is designed to provide a presentation on the NUA Platform to date, covering four elements: (a) New Urban Agenda Reporting Guidelines; (b) Knowledge and Learning; (c) Engagement and Participation, and (d) Advocacy and Communications.

The event will discuss multi-stakeholder perspectives on these functions, as well as how to integrate the Platform with other national and global platforms related to the New Urban Agenda and urban-related SDGs, innovation, sustainability, efficiency, new partnership and engagement to maximize the success of the Platform.

Objectives

- Update on progress in the design and purpose of the New Urban Agenda Platform.
- Exchange of experiences and innovation in how to follow-up progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda towards the achievement of the SDGs.
- Feedback on the design, use, and sustainability of the Platform from multi-stakeholder perspectives.
- Renew momentum and collaborative efforts towards accelerated implementation and reporting of the NUA and the related urban dimensions of the SDGs as well as reporting systems.
- Strengthen reporting systems and mechanisms in support of NUA implementation and related SDGs;
- Foster new partnerships for effective implementation and reporting of the NUA and a Road Map for a series of consultations to advance the Platform.

Relevance to the UN-Habitat Assembly: Innovative technologies leverage new sources of data, information and develop new approaches for collection, management, processing, and dissemination. The event will contribute to the theme of the Assembly: *"Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities* and sub-theme *"Accelerated Implementation of the NUA towards the achievement of the SDGs."*



Relevance to UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020–2025: The event centers on increasing collaboration, building innovative partnerships and co-designing engagement processes across the Member States, UN system, multilateral, civil society, private sector, and academia to advance the development and deployment of the Platform.

The event will not only provide an opportunity to learn, network and share but that it will excite interests and change thinking in the way new advances and changes in knowledge sharing could better support the follow-up and reporting of NUA implementation. The event format will include a panelist of 5 leading thinkers and practitioners and a moderator representing the Member States, local/regional governments, civil society/private sector and UN agency with a set of guiding questions.

Organizer

UN-Habitat

Moderator

Mr. Nicholas You - Executive Director, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

Speaker/ Presenter

- *Opening Remarks:* Mr. Raf Tuts, Director, Programme Division, UN-Habitat
- *Presentation on the NUA Platform:* Ms. Åsa Jonsson, Mr. Ben Arimiah and Mr. Joe Lemaron Sadallah -- Research and Capacity Development Branch, UN-Habitat

Stakeholder perspectives:

- Hon. Gatete Claver, Minister of Infrastructure, Rwanda
- Ms. Felicitas Kubala, Deputy Mayor, Mannheim, Germany
- Ms. Wallis Goelen, Advisor to Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- Ms. Sri Sofjan, Huairou Commission, and Member of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues (AGGI)
- Ms. Amie Figueiredo, Housing and Land Management Unit, UNECE
- Mr. Alexandre Pinho, Global Lead for United Nations, Microsoft

Speaker Profiles



Mr. Nicholas You

Executive Director, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

Nicholas You is a veteran urban specialist and thought leader. He has worked as a senior policy and planning advisor to UN-Habitat and the manager of the Habitat II Conference held in Istanbul in 1996. He is the founder and honorary chairman of the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign Steering Committee, former chairman of the Assurance Group for Urban Infrastructure of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, former Chairman of the Urban Strategy and Innovation Council for ENGIE and former co-President of the Global Cities Business Alliance. He is currently the Executive Director of the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, the, and co-Chair of the Open Green City Lab in Shenzhen. He also serves as member of the board of the Citiscope, the Huairou Commission, the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities, and adjunct for the Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore. He regularly advises central and local governments, technology companies, utilities and civil society organizations on urban sustainability, urban governance and urban innovation including the nexus between water, waste, transport and energy. He also works as a strategic planning and governance advisor to many metropolitan authorities worldwide.

environment and citizen services in Mannheim.



Ms. Wallis Goelen

Advisor to the Deputy Director General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Goelen joined the European Commission in September 1989 from the French National Administration. She has extensive experience working for the European Commission gained within numerous units of EC. At the beginning she worked as policy officer in charge of the design of

the intra EU Value Added Tax system, then became Policy Coordinator for Export Promotion to Japan. In 1996 she was appointed Deputy Head of Unit for overall relations with Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. In 2002, she joined DG Employment and Social Affairs where she held several management positions dealing with designing EU Disability Strategy, developing solutions concerning employment services and labour mobility as well as developing the European Labour Market and providing access to more and new employment opportunities. Currently, Wallis Goelen is Head of the Unit responsible for the European Social Fund (ESF) in Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. She oversees ESF investment programming negotiations and implementation of interventions in these three countries while holding responsibility of monitoring and evaluating employment and social national policies in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy and corresponding Country Specific Recommendations. Wallis holds a BS in Economics from the Paris I Sorbonne University, a MS in Economics from the French National School of Taxation and a Post-Master degree in Science of Organisations with a specialisation on International Fiscal Policy and Administration from University Paris IX Dauphine.



Honourable Gatete Claver

Minister of Infrastructure, Republic of Rwanda

Hon. Claver Gatete was appointed as the Minister of Infrastructure on 6 April 2018. Prior to this appointment, he served as Minister of Finance and Economic Planning since February 2013. He had previously served as the Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda (2011 to 2013), having previously served as its Deputy Governor. Hon. Gatete also served as Rwanda's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Iceland from November 2005 to December 2009. Prior to that, Amb. Claver Gatete had served successively as the Secretary General and Secretary to the Treasury in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Personal Representative of the President on NEPAD Steering Committee in the Office of the President, Coordinator of the National African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), member of the APR National Commission; and Member of the NEPAD's African Partnership Forum (APF) and the Director General for Social and Economic Affairs. He also worked with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Kigali, Rwanda, as a National Economist.



Ms. Felicitas Kubala

Deputy Mayor, Mannheim, Germany

Ms. Kubala became a member of Germany's Greens Party in 1984. In 2001 she was elected on the state list in the House of Representatives of Berlin. From 2009 to 2011 she was Deputy Group Chair. She was a member of the Committee on Urban Development and the Environment, the Committee on Sport and Spokeswoman for its Group for Environmental and Sports Policy. In 2012, Ms. Kubala was elected mayor of the



Sri H. Sofjan

Senior Advisor and Strategist, Huairou Commission

For 20 years, Sri has worked in the fields of human settlements, gender equality and new information technologies, and was formally trained in economics, political science and public administration. In 2012, she became the first CEO of Penang Women's Development Corporation, established to engender public and private sector policies and programs, and work towards gender and social justice. Prior to joining PWDC, Sri served as a Senior Fellow for Program Coordination and

Development at Huairou. She was also the Program Manager of the United Nations Women's Development Fund, now known as UN Women, in Aceh, Indonesia, leading an initiative that promoted women's legal rights during reconstruction after the 2004 tsunami and the signing of the Peace Agreement. She served as Program Officer for the Urban Governance Initiative (TUGI), where she facilitated the introduction of the Good Governance Report Card on Gender and Governance, as well as the Local-to-Local Dialogue that led to the inclusion of poor urban women and their communities in local governance processes. From 1993 to 1998, Sri was Program Officer at two United Nations Development Program regional projects and the Urban Management Program for Asia and the Pacific. Sri is currently a member of the Advisory Group on Gender Issues of UN-Habitat.



Ms. Amie Figueiredo

Economic Affairs Officer UNECE, Switzerland

Amie Figueiredo is part of the Housing and Land Management Unit in the Forests, Land and Housing Division of UNECE and is the Secretary to the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration. She has previously worked at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on issues related to sustainable development, Rio+20 and its outcomes and the Post-2015 development agenda. She has also worked in the NGO sector where she secured funding for a variety of conservation projects globally. In addition, she has worked in the private sector and possesses chemical regulatory management experience in environmental health and safety, hazard communication, and environmentally sound management. She has experience in coordinating multiple inter-governmental, multi-sectoral meetings; servicing of inter-agency and expert group meetings/seminars; providing technical assistance and capacity-building workshops; assisting in the implementation of multi-disciplinary projects and inter-divisional initiatives on development issues and policies for intergovernmental bodies regarding sustainable development.



Mr. Alexandre Pinho

Global Lead for United Nations, Microsoft

Alexandre Started his professional career in 1995, as a systems engineer in TAP Air Portugal. In 1997, he joined Andersen Consulting (currently Accenture) where he developed a 12-year career in Management Consulting for Public Sector and Healthcare, leaving in 2009 as the Industry Lead for Human Services and Healthcare. From 2007 to 2008, Alexandre took an international assignment as part of the Global Non-Profit Sector Practice Founding Committee, leaving in Jan 2009 to become Managing Director for Public Sector and Healthcare in Indra. In 2010 he joined KPMG as the Management and Risk Consulting Lead Partner for Infrastructure, Government and Healthcare in Portugal and Angola, being also the part of the KPMG International Healthcare Leadership Team and a Member of the Africa Healthcare Board. In Jan 2013 he joined Microsoft as board member on the Portuguese Sub, where he took on several Executive Leadership Roles as Public Sector Lead, Microsoft Services Lead and finally Enterprise Sector Lead until Oct 2017. In November 2017, he was assigned by Microsoft Corp as the Global Lead for the United Nations and International Organizations Sector, keeping this as his current role.

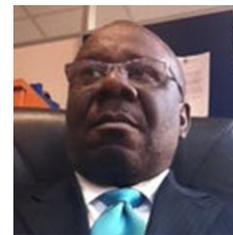


Mr. Raf Tuts

Director Programme Division, UN-Habitat

Rafael Tuts is Director of the Programme Division of UN-Habitat, based at its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. From 2012 to 2016 he was coordinator of the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat, promoting compact, integrated and connected cities that are inclusive and resilient to climate change. From 2014-2016 he was also overseeing the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch of UN-Habitat, with a focus on the 'Housing at the Centre' approach and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

Following the Rio+20 Conference, he coordinated UN-Habitat's engagement in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Together with colleagues from the World Bank, UNEP and Cities Alliance, he received the World Bank Vice-President Team Award in 2011 for global partnership building on Cities and Climate Change. He also received ISOCARP's 50th Anniversary Award in 2015, in recognition of UN-Habitat's urban planning work. Before joining UN-Habitat in 1995, he worked for the Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning of the University of Leuven in Belgium and the Housing Research and Development Unit of the University of Nairobi.



Mr. Ben Arimah

Research and Capacity Development Branch, UN-Habitat

Ben Arimah is a Senior Human Settlements Officer in the Research and Capacity Development Branch and primarily responsible for the UN-Habitat's flagship reports. Ben holds a PhD in in Housing and Urban Development. His research interests include: urban housing markets; urbanization in developing countries; and human dimensions of global environment. His articles have appeared in: *Urban Studies*; *Land Economics*; *Environment and Planning A*; *Journal of Human Development*; *International Planning Studies*; *OPEC Review*; *Habitat International*; *Journal of Environmental Management*; *International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology*; and *African Development Review* among others. His most recent publication is 'Infrastructure as a Catalyst for the Prosperity of African Cities.'



Ms. Åsa Jonsson

Chief, Best Practices Programme

Åsa is Chief of UN-Habitat's Best Practices Unit, and Coordinator for Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, at UN-Habitat's Headquarters based in Nairobi. She is currently managing the development of the New Urban Agenda Platform. From 2013-2017, she worked in the Programme Division responsible for project formulation, including from 2014-15 as Research and Capacity Building Advisor in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In this position, she led the multi-stakeholder engagement and the City Prosperity Index components for a large-scale urban development programme. Prior to this, she managed the gender, youth and Islamic portfolios of the Global Land Tool Network. She started her career at UN-Habitat in the Training and Capacity Building Branch. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, she worked for UNESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand on housing, urban development and youth programmes; on gender statistics at the Statistical Division, UNDESA New York, and for several international NGOs in the fields of urban development and public health.