



**REPORTING FORMAT FOR PARTNERS**

**Networking – Side – Training events**

**City Changer Room – Urban Library – Agora – One UN events**

**Deadline: 30 April 2014**

**Please send via email:** [wuf@unhabitat.org](mailto:wuf@unhabitat.org)

**Reporting Format for Partners**  
(Networking Events, Side Events, Training Events, City Changer Room, One UN Room, Urban Library, and Agora Room)

<b>Name of Reporter:</b>	Beatrice De Carli
Event title/number:	Participatory Design and Planning for Equitable Cities - NE 18 (Ref.no.73656)
Date:	8 April 2014
Venue:	Yellow Pavilion
Time:	14:00-16:00
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	Architecture Sans Frontières -UK (ASF-UK)
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	UK
Approximate number of participants:	100

**Summary of the Event (max: 300 words):**

- This event explored the work conducted by ASF-UK in Brazil, Kenya and Ecuador in 2009-2013, resulting in the innovative participatory design & planning methodology: Change by Design (CbD). CbD intends participatory design as a way to strengthen communities and engage citizens in a process of deepening democracy. Unlike traditional participatory methods, it frames participation as a means to critique the dominant modes of urban development, and challenge the structural conditions that perpetuate urban poverty and exclusion from governance.
- The event brought together a range of partners to discuss the opportunities and limitations of participatory design & planning. The event was structured into 3 parallel debates. Partners presented and discussed their own work and experience from Africa, Asia, Europe, South America. A closing plenary linked the debates and examine ways forward. Each debate will address one key concern:
  - 1) Scale: How to link micro-level participatory design to macro-level city planning and governance processes? Can participatory design only respond to such processes, or can it also shape them by furthering alternative spatial practices and imaginaries?
  - 2) Process: Should the process of participatory design aim to pursue consensus, or leverage on conflicting views? Is participatory design about crafting alliances, or is it about enunciating dissent and negotiating difference and power imbalances?
  - 3) Time: How can participatory design promote urban adaptability, and ensure environments that respond to social and spatial diversities? How can the



products of design articulate the complexities revealed through the process of design?



- *Relevant Focus Areas:* Urban Planning and Design; Housing and Slum Upgrading; Urban Land, Legislation, Governance

**Summary of the Discussion (max: total 500 words):**

1. The *Scale* group identified five key concerns. Firstly, to achieve scale and link micro level design to city planning we need to reframe our understandings of 'participation' away from solely 'community/slum dweller participation' to wider engagement with the whole range of urban stakeholders. Secondly, in this sense, it is as much a governance issue as it is a planning and design one. Thirdly, we need to acknowledge the morphological differences in urban form globally which necessitate different approaches given opportunities and constraints for intervention. For example, South African informal areas are different to those in Latin America. Fourth, we need useful and simple tools and ways to engage the poor in city planning and policy making if we are to reach scale. Lastly, we need good intermediate stakeholders (NGOs, technical support) to be able to go to scale and alter the dominant mode of city building to be more participatory and inclusive.

2. The *Process* group discussed five key issues related to the process of participatory design and planning. Firstly, that participatory design should be principle-based, which should guide the ways in which decisions are made and therefore trying to address power imbalances. Secondly, the group discussed the importance of building trust with and among community groups. This means having strategic vision as well as generating quick wins that address immediate needs. Thirdly that tools of engagement need to be multiple and creative to reach out to various groups and respond to local practices and experiences. Fourthly, that how learning is produced and shared should be a core preoccupation of participatory design initiatives if it is to have a longer term impact. Lastly, practitioners need political astuteness to engage in complex scenarios responsibly and respond in the best way possible to the asymmetries of power.

3. The *Time* group discussed four key issues related to the sustainability of participatory design and planning initiatives. Firstly the group discussed the need to think about the adaptability of the spatial products of participatory initiatives. In this way, the group emphasised the importance of maintaining the openness of the product of design, therefore allowing participation to go beyond the limits of a project cycle. Secondly the group discussed about the actors governing the time-frame of participatory initiatives. Experiences were shared reflecting on the role that donors rather than communities play in determining the length of participation in design and planning initiatives. Thirdly, the group argued that for a meaningful engagement, the time that is needed to make decisions are longer than the pace of change being pushed by urban development. Finally, the group outlined the need of participatory engagements to go beyond spatial products, and also generate platforms for continuous engagements strengthening long-term social mobilisation and networks.





As a cross-cutting reflection, the debates questioned the concept 'community', 'participatory design' and 'project based interventions', arguing that we might need new terminologies to explain and guide meaningful processes of engagement that can lead to transformative change in the city.

2. Major emerging issues and position documents/declarations towards:

- *Habitat III*

Local and National Governments must open up space for the full and meaningful participation of the urban poor and marginalised in urban planning, design and policymaking. This is essential to achieve equitable and inclusive cities.

- *POST2015*

Sustainable development can only be achieved where the urban poor are involved in planning and design of not only their own houses and settlements but the city as a whole.

- *A New Urban Agenda*

Governance and urban planning are inextricably linked. Urban planning and design should not be approached as a purely technical exercise but instead framed as a governance issue around the equitable sharing of resources and opportunities.

3. Recommendations made during the discussion

*(e.g. policy direction, good/best practices, resource mobilization, innovative funding mechanism, etc.)*

As above in (2).

4. Building partnerships, network and synergies with UN-Habitat

*(e.g. agreements or Memorandum of Understanding committed/signed, amounts and number of pledged contributions and partnerships/networks, etc.)*

The event facilitated the sharing of UN-Habitat's work with partners (e.g. Afghanistan programme, PSUP, housing profiling).

**Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:**

Full name (Ms):	Beatrice De Carli
Nationality:	Italy
Organization/Institution:	ASF-UK and Sheffield School of Architecture, University of Sheffield
Time:	14:00 - 16:00
Position:	Speaker/Group Moderator
Contact address (Email):	b.decarli@asf-uk.org





Full name (Mr):	Alexandre Apsan Frediani
Nationality:	Brazil
Organization/Institution:	The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London
Time:	14:00 - 16:00
Position:	Speaker/Group Moderator
Contact address (Email):	a.frediani@ucl.ac.uk

Full name (Mr):	Matthew French
Nationality:	New Zealand
Organization/Institution:	UN-Habitat Afghanistan
Time:	14:00 - 16:00
Position:	Speaker/Group Moderator
Contact address (Email):	matthew.french@unhabitat-afg.org

Full name (Ms):	Ana Paula Baltazar
Nationality:	Brazil
Organization/Institution:	MOM Morar de Outras Maneiras, Universidade de Minas Gerais
Time:	14:00 - 16:00
Position:	Speaker
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Full name (Mr):	Yonier Castaneda
Nationality:	Colombia
Organization/Institution:	Universidad La Gran Colombia
Time:	14:00 - 16:00
Position:	Speaker
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Full name (Mr):	Zama Mgwatyu
Nationality:	South Africa
Organization/Institution:	Development Action Group
Time:	14:00 - 16:00
Position:	Speaker
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If there were more speakers/presenters/moderators in your events, please feel free to add the above tables.





## **UN-Habitat Thematic areas**

All events are identified by UN-Habitat priority substantive areas as below:

### **URBAN LAND, LEGISLATION & GOVERNANCE**

*Land & GLTN, Urban Legislation, Urban and Community Management & Governance, Safety*

### **URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN**

*Regional & Metropolitan Planning, City Extensions & Enlargements, Market Town & Intermediate City Planning*

### **URBAN ECONOMY**

*Urban & Municipal Finance, Urban Productivity, Youth and Job Creation*

### **URBAN BASIC SERVICES**

*Water & Sanitation, Urban Energy, Urban Mobility, Urban Waste Management*

### **HOUSING & SLUM UPGRADING**

*Housing, Slum Upgrading, Shelter Rehabilitation*

### **RISK REDUCTION & REHABILITATION**

*Urban Risk Reduction, Infrastructure Rehabilitation, Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation, Resilience*

### **RESEARCH & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

*Global Urban Observatory, Flagship Reports, Capacity Development*

*Cross-cutting issues:*

**GENDER**

**YOUTH**

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

