



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

Name of Reporter:	Dr. Peter Mackie
Event title/number:	Work and equity in cities of change: the right to the city and empowerment/NE19
Date:	Tuesday 8 th April 2014
Venue:	Red Pavillion, Room 19
Time:	14:00-16:00
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	Cardiff University
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	Cardiff/UK
Approximate number of participants:	4 speakers, 40 delegates

Summary of the Event:

From street traders, to construction workers and cleaners, the informal economy is the life blood of 21st century cities. Yet workers face limited rights and dire working conditions, and city governments need expertise to protect and empower vulnerable workers and to profit from this dynamic economy. Policy lessons and good practice are beginning to emerge. This event formed a platform for debate on rights and equity for informal economy workers, as a route to social, economic, political and spatial empowerment, and provided policy direction for economic empowerment and inclusion of street traders and other informal economy workers.

The event emerged from action research which contrasts experiences of informal economy workers within rights-based governance agendas in Quito and Cusco, the post-Arab spring cities of Cairo and Tunis, and Durban – a city of participatory policy development practices and empowering urban design solutions. The event reached five key conclusions:

- I. The implementation of rights based approaches can significantly impact on access to public space, particularly for marginal groups.
- II. The absence of rights leads to turbulent access to the city, with passages of tolerance and temporary reprieve common place (i.e. post conflict, following an election) only to return to intolerance and marginalisation.
- III. The utility of rights is reduced where accessible mechanisms do not exist to seek redress when rights are infringed.
- IV. Participatory planning and design solutions have proven to effectively and often innovatively meet the competing needs and demands of multiple stakeholders in the urban environment.

*All reports received will be included in the WUF7 final report to be published after the closing of the Forum. We kindly urge you to send the report of your session to us **before 30 April 2014** following this format. Please be aware that not delivering the report within the deadline will be taken into consideration when applying for future events at the World Urban Forum.*

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





V. Rights based approaches do not necessarily ensure *a valued place* for the informal economy in cities. More must be done to recognise and embrace the potential of the informal economy as a desirable part of longer term economic strategies.

The event had relevance to many of UN-Habitat's thematic areas and cross-cutting issues but made particular contributions to the following:

Themes:

1] Urban land, legislation and governance; 2] Urban planning and design; 3] Urban economy

Cross-cutting issues:

1] Gender; 2] Human Rights

Summary of the Discussion:

1. Outline of the discussion/debates

The event focused on research which contrasts experiences of informal economy workers within rights-based governance agendas in Quito and Cusco, the post-Arab spring cities of Cairo and Tunis, and Durban – a city of participatory policy development practices and empowering urban design solutions.

Cairo and Tunis

Revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia provided a temporary reprieve for street traders, with product confiscations reportedly down in both Cairo and Tunis. However, economic need had driven new entrants into the informal economy. Additionally, the initial reprieve from state attention soon ended as new regimes began to embed. In 2012 Egypt's Peddler's Law was introduced, bringing in harsh penalties and fines for vending. There have been subsequent signs of resistance; in Egypt a syndicate has been initiated for traders in order to improve collective bargaining power.

Quito and Cusco

In both cities relatively tolerant policies have recently emerged. In Cusco, traders were permitted to return to the streets under a Mayor elected on a commitment to support street traders. Initial supportive policies were revoked and are now being revisited. In Quito, policies are founded on a more stable footing; a rights based approach. The national constitution embeds a right to participate, a right to the city and a right that traders should not have their goods confiscated. However, traders still face confiscations and difficulties obtaining trading licences with no meaningful mechanisms available to seek redress. In both cities there is a recognition of the economic need for traders to work but there is a failure to recognise the informal economy as a desirable part of the city economy.

Durban

Participatory action research with informal traders in two Durban trading sites revealed the empowering impacts of participatory planning and urban design. In one site, traders joined together to work with the research team to design trading stalls that would be protected from the impacts of flooding. In a second site, participation between the traders, authorities, a local religious group and the researchers resulted in a design solution which provided shelter and clearer rights of access to a popular trading site.





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

- *Habitat III*
- *POST2015*
- *A New Urban Agenda*

Whilst the session focused specifically on the experiences of urban informal economy workers and their fight for equity in the city, the emerging issues speak to wider debates of a new urban agenda. Five key issues were identified:

- I. The implementation of rights-based approaches can significantly impact on access to public space, particularly for marginal groups.
- II. The absence of rights leads to turbulent access to the city, with passages of tolerance and temporary reprieve common place (i.e. post conflict, following an election) only to return to intolerance and marginalisation.
- III. The utility of rights is reduced where accessible mechanisms do not exist to seek redress when rights are infringed.
- IV. Participatory planning and design solutions have proven to effectively and often innovatively meet the competing needs and demands of multiple stakeholders in the urban environment.
- V. Rights-based approaches do not necessarily ensure *a valued place* for the informal economy in cities. More must be done to recognise and embrace the potential of the informal economy as a desirable part of longer term economic strategies.

3. Recommendations made during the discussion

In response to the five key issues identified during the networking event, two key recommendations are made:

- I. All citizens must have a right to participate in the development and review of policies which affect their lives. Crucially, the enactment of these rights must be monitored and where rights are infringed there must be a mechanism for redress.
- II. The informal economy deserves specific attention in a new urban agenda. It must no longer be ignored or viewed as a transitory activity. Consideration should be given to enacting explicit rights to work in the informal economy or economic pluralism could be embraced.



Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:



Full name (Mr/Ms):	Joseph Schechla
Nationality:	
Organization/Institution:	Housing & Land Rights Network, Habitat International Coalition, Egypt
Time:	14:10 – 14:40
Position:	Co-ordinator
Contact address (Email):	jschechla@hic-mena.org

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Alison Brown
Nationality:	British
Organization/Institution:	Cardiff University
Time:	14:40 – 15:00
Position:	Professor
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Peter Mackie
Nationality:	British
Organization/Institution:	Cardiff University
Time:	15:10-15:30
Position:	Lecturer
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Richard Dobson
Nationality:	South African
Organization/Institution:	Asiye Etafuleni and African Centre for Cities, South Africa
Time:	15:30-15:50
Position:	Project Leader
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