



**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>	Fahima Elshahed
Event title/number:	NE02: Changes and challenges facing physical planning and implementation in Arab Cities
Date:	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> of April 2014
Venue:	Yellow Pavilion, Room 2
Time:	14:00 – 16:00
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	General Organization For Physical Planning (GOPP), Egypt, and Urban Planning Agency (UPA), Libya
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	Egypt and Libya
Approximate number of participants:	75

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

Arab region cities face multidimensional spatial, socio-economic, governance, environmental and other challenges that resulted in the residents of many Arab cities experiencing aspects of injustice clearly reflected in the wide spread of informal settlements. These challenges are highlighted in the current institutional and legal framework that governs the planning and manages human settlements within the Arab region. The lack of integration and coordination between different planning and financing authorities has led to the replication of efforts and distorted visions for development and the lack of legal and financial support to the implementation of strategic planning outcomes. Also the absence of integrated plans between national, regional, and local levels, and the need for efficient urban expansion policies are major spatial challenges that need to be addressed, in addition to the limited capacities of local administrations, and their partners, including, but not limited to, research institutions, private sector companies, NGOs, etc. to elaborate and implement plans. Moreover, some cities throughout the Arab region face problems with air quality, and negative impacts of climate change, others are vulnerable to disaster risks, such as tsunamis, and thus need to be prepared.

This networking event avails an opportunity for the relevant stakeholders involved in the planning process in the Arab cities at both central and local levels to present and discuss issues relevant to socio-economic capacities, local economic development, as well as functional





and institutional capacities to improve the physical planning processes in the Arab region. Additionally stakeholders are encouraged to further develop their capacities through shared lessons learned and mutual experiences.

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

- Alexandria strategic urban plan: development challenges and opportunities. Lack of land use plans and regulations have pushed the capacity of the city to provide services such as transportation, housing, energy and security to the limits. Uncontrolled urban growth generated environmental problems, increasing social segmentation and poverty. Alexandria is facing serious spatial challenges that are affecting the quality of life and citizens' wellbeing, most importantly densification, illegal growth (informal settlements), destruction of cultural heritage, conflicting land uses, deteriorated public transport, poor road quality, and high traffic congestion as well as environmental problems: beach erosion, salt water intrusion and sea level rise pollution. Lack of a functioning land registry or cadastral title system; a major obstacle, particularly to attracting foreign direct investment, planning procedures in Alexandria tend to be fragmented and non-transparent, and cooperation between departments tends to be weak. Decision making processes (and finances) for large economic projects are highly centralized (in Cairo). weak law enforcement (building laws, by-laws and unified building codes. Participatory strategic urban planning for Alexandria city till 2032 and its strategic matrix: the five integrated multidisciplinary goals: support decentralized concentration, improve quality of life & environmental quality, stimulate successful socio-economic development, promote cultural and architectural heritage and support planning policies for implementation. Alexandria sup project proposed priorities are: achieve balanced and inclusive led, improve connectivity of public transportation systems, allow well-planned edge growth of the core city, direct urban growth to Alexandria west, and improve infrastructure and environment Quality, encourage civic pride / active public participation.
- The history of urban planning in Libya, population challenges facing Libya despite its large area, the reasons for the lack of urban plans for Libyan cities and the impact on urban development.
- Urban planning in the past, present and future in Khartoum state, challenges and changes facing Khartoum urban development
- Urban environment challenges, problems and solutions, the difficult mountainous topography of Taiz city reflects on the serious environmental issues, especially infrastructure, the limited experience of the local authority in the city exceeds grow of urban challenges, such as building growth before the improvement of the physical planning, the city looks like an informal settlement with scarcity of infrastructure which reflects on the citizens suffering.

**3. Recommendations made during the discussion:**





**1. The Sustainable use of the environmental and natural resources requires:**

- Preservation of natural resources and the development of efficient environmental and urban infrastructure.
- Participatory structures for urban and environmental management to ensure improved communication processes.

**2. Improve productivity in urban areas through:**

- Effective use of natural and environmental resources.
- Increase market efficiency by improving the regulatory framework within the market.
- Encourage the participation of the private sector and cooperatives in the development process with the need to strengthen financial and technical capability of the local authorities.

**3. Reduce urban poverty which can be measured by the following:**

- The proportion of poor people in urban areas.
- Methods of access to housing.
- The ability to provide urban services and ensure their access to intended beneficiaries.
- The proportion of government spending on infrastructure.

**4. Face growing environmental crisis in urban areas:**

- The protection of the urban environment through a strategy for the urban environment management and activate short-term operational plans.

**5 - Increase Urban Research and the need to understand urban issues, especially the following fields:**

- The relationship between regional and urban economics and macroeconomics.
- Productivity in urban areas with respect to the internal efficiency of cities.
- The informal sector and the urban poor.
- Financing of investments in urban areas.
- Redefining the role of Government in the process of urban development.



## Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:



Full name (Mr/Ms):	Mr. Waleed El Sayed El Arabi (Moderator)
Nationality:	Egyptian
Organization/Institution:	League of Arab States
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Eng. Khaled al senussi (Presenter)
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Dr. Altayeb Haj Ali (Presenter)
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