



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

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

Name of Reporter:	Professor Ivan Turok
Event title/number:	National Urban Policies: Ingredients of Success in the Pursuit of Equitable Development
Date:	7 th April
Venue:	City Changer Room A
Time:	14.45-17.00
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	Human Sciences Research Council
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	South Africa – Cape Town
Approximate number of participants:	60

Summary of the Event:

The event was stemmed from a joint project between UN-Habitat and the HSRC to analyse the evolution of national urban policies (NUPs) in different countries and to draw lessons for current practice. The objectives were to consider how NUPs have developed over time and to identify core principles of a common framework for the future. The idea was to help participants distil lessons about good and bad practice in managing the pressures of urbanisation and avoiding some of the major problems that have arisen from haphazard urban growth. Speakers talked mostly about experience in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

The relevant focus area was urban planning and design. The theme was also relevant to urban land, legislation and governance; urban economy; basic services; and housing and slum upgrading.

Summary of the Discussion:

The speakers talked first about the challenges of contemporary urbanisation, including extensive growth (sprawl), population outpacing economic growth, inability of public services to keep pace, weak city institutions, and the lack of policy instruments and resources to plan and manage urbanisation better.

They then reviewed the experience of NUP in different countries. In Europe





there is a long history of top-down planning and municipal service delivery that has been effective in some respects (raising housing and service standards over time), but less effective in others (raising the price of housing and excluding some groups from the benefits). NUP has often been defined in a narrow, sectoral manner related to physical planning or housing (to steer growth pressures) or welfare schemes (to compensate for economic decline).

In Latin America, Asia and Africa there has been a long-standing anti-urban sentiment, reflected in attempts to contain and control it in various ways. Within the last 20 years or so, the situation has changed in several countries and a more positive stance is emerging, reflecting recognition that urban areas can be engines of economic growth if managed carefully.

The new urban agenda places more emphasis on qualitative aspects of urbanisation, such as its impact on poverty and the environment, and less on the sheer quantity of urban growth. The new paradigm requires empowered city institutions to balance competing pressures and demands on land and other resources. The concept of resilience is very relevant, recognising the need for robustness in the face of external shocks and adaptability to adverse economic and environmental trends.

Recommendations made during the discussion

One of the recommendations that emerged was that the relationship between sectoral and spatial policies needs to be strengthened. Urban policies are inherently cross-cutting and place-based, so how do they both align and sensitise sectoral policies (housing, transport, infrastructure etc) to specific places is very important. For countries with weak institutions and stretched resources, the priority is to focus on the preparation of land in advance of human settlement formation in order to ensure orderly development.

A related issue was the distinctive responsibilities of national and local governments. The appropriate functions of the national administration are to provide appropriate signals, incentives, finance, regulations, oversight and support for capacity building. Local governments have a vital role to play in urban management and programme implementation.

Building partnerships, network and synergies with UN-Habitat

Representatives of UN-Habitat, the Cities Alliance and the HSRC all participated as speakers, thereby improving relationships all-round. Speakers from the floor came from all parts of the world and from civil society (e.g. slum dwellers international), the private sector, national and city governments and international development agencies.



Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:



Full name (Mr/Ms):	Prof Ivan Turok
Nationality:	South Africa
Organization/Institution:	HSRC
Time:	30 Minutes
Position:	Deputy Executive Director
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Dr Elkin Velasquez
Nationality:	Colombia
Organization/Institution:	UN-Habitat
Time:	15 minutes
Position:	Regional Director
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Dr Rene Peter Hohmann
Nationality:	German
Organization/Institution:	Cities Alliance
Time:	15 minutes
Position:	Senior urban specialist
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Full name (Mr/Ms):	Dr Remy Sietchiping
Nationality:	Australia
Organization/Institution:	UN-Habitat
Time:	15 minutes
Position:	Acting Leader, Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit
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