Urban Equity in Development -
Cities for life

WUF7
Medellín
Colombia
5-11 April 2014

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:	Eugenie L. Birch
Event title/number:	72109, titled: "Urban Land for Public Good
Date:	April 10, 2014
Venue:	City Changer Room
Time:	1:30-2:30
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	Penn Institute for Urban Research, University of Pennsylvania
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	Philadelphia, PA USA
Approximate number of participants:	45

Summary of the Event (max: 300 words):
- *Brief background of the event, including overall objectives and purposes*

This panel discussed a new urban paradigm for achieving urban land for public good, one based in good planning, legal reform and innovative finance. Here is the background or rationale for the panel.

- Many of us live in cities, the large, densely settled and socially diverse places that support our work, our family lives and our communities. Within our nations, our cities are part of urban networks interwoven with the rural environments that provide the vital food and water systems upon which we depend. A hundred years ago, we city dwellers were a minority among the global population. In the next few decades, we will be a plurality as we number nearly three quarters of world's people. This transformative phenomenon began a century ago in Europe and North America. It is now happening with lightening speed in Asia and Africa, places that are adding millions to the urban majorities. In fact, Rockefeller University demographer Joel Cohen predicts that in order to keep up with the pace, urbanizing countries will have to build a city of a million every week for the next forty years.

- While any city is shaped by its local context and inhabitants' culture and customs, stripped to its barebones, a city has two key characteristics. It is rooted on land and it is a system of systems. Consider it as a spatial entity: If it occupies its space well, it is livable and sustainable. If it runs rampant over the landscape, it is inefficient and destructive. Consider its complex and interlocking systems: engineering arrangements, social organizations, economic structures

and environmental components. If like a Swiss watch these systems work perfectly, they heighten human possibilities for a good life. But if like a machine run amuck, they malfunction, they heighten human frailty, especially for the poor and vulnerable.

- In the case of cities, the level of public goods delivery associated with these systems varies globally. Between 2000 and 2012, China made great strides; countries in Africa, little or none and India some. In every instance players from government, business, and civil society provide and support these systems. Their challenge, round the world, is to come together to engage in the collective action that will yield 21st century cities marked by sustainable and inclusive urban growth. **Of particular concern is making urban land available for public good.**

- **The objectives of the panel were:**
    - To demonstrate how good planning, legal reforms and innovative finance can be employed together to release land to accommodate anticipated population growth in rapidly urbanizing places
    - To discuss the role of multi sector (public, private and non government entities) in promoting good planning, legal reforms and innovative finance in making land available for public good
    - To emphasize the importance that good planning, legal reforms and innovative finance must be tailored to the individual contexts of the places in which they are applied.

- *Relevant Focus Areas (Refer to below: UN-Habitat's thematic areas) and cross-cutting issues:*

This panel was relevant for all of UN-Habitat's thematic areas because good land planning cuts across all that UN Habitat does. It is of particular relevance to the following:
    - URBAN LAND, LEGISLATION & GOVERNANCE
    - URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN
    - URBAN BASIC SERVICES
    - HOUSING & SLUM UPGRADING
    - RISK REDUCTION & REHABILITATION

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

1. Outline of the discussion/debates

Within the larger context of "making land available for public good," the speakers identified and discussed case studies from India, Iraq and Colombia that address how they worked with city governments and marginalized communities to regularize their land, housing and services. Within all these cases:

- Attempts were made (both successfully and less successfully) to readjust, release or simply regularize land for public benefits.
- There are various examples of how planning, legal reforms, and innovative finance were employed.
- All cases are multi-stakeholder solutions involving public and NGO entities.

In the Iraq and Colombia cases, the populations were internally displaced by the war/conflicts so they may share some common lessons. In India, the populations were not internally displaced but migrated for economic reasons

and were under threat of eviction until our program intervention. So in all cases, the populations we worked with were seeking legitimacy within the city.

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

- *Habitat III*
    - This panel reinforced the need to develop a new urban paradigm to direct the anticipated growth of cities in the next decades. It argued that business-as-usual solutions simply will not work for the future as the trajectory and direction of urbanization in the developing world and the demand for renewing cities in the developed world call for re-thinking, re-imagining and redesigning current approaches to meet 21st century needs. Finally, it also demonstrated how innovative work can evolve to achieve sustainable urban development and that educating public and private decision-makers about the necessity of being open to new ideas will be essential.

- *POST2015*
  This panel reminded the attendees that the UN should not only endorse but also can realize a stand alone SDG, "achieving sustainable cities and human settlements," that could have targets such as these:
    - Plan and promote compact cities to improve human prospects and outcomes in both urban and rural settlements
    - Adopt risk-aware design and financing of urban investments to reduce the loss of lives, housing and infrastructure to natural disasters
    - Distribute the benefits of sustainable development to ensure equitable access to affordable, durable housing, basic services and land tenure security
    - Deploy accessible, low-carbon transport systems to provide shorter, more affordable, safer and healthier commutes to dynamic urban employment locations
    - Build safe, connected communities and neighborhoods to foster social cohesion and cultural continuity
- *A New Urban Agenda*
  See comments above.

3. Recommendations made during the discussion
(e.g. policy direction, good/best practices, resource mobilization, innovative funding mechanism, etc.)
To find ways to instruct public and private decision-makers in the theory and practice of land re-adjustment in order to enable the use of urban land for public good.

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.)
NA

Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:

Full name	**Mr. Brian English**
Nationality:	USA
Organization/Institution:	Global Communities
Time:	First speaker
Position:	Director, Office of Program Innovation
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Full name	**Alejandro Téllez R.**
Nationality:	Colombiano
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Time:	Second speaker
Position:	Director de Programas
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Full name	**Dr. Yu-Hung Hong**
Nationality:	Chinese
Organization/Institution:	Land Governance Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Time:	Third speaker
Position:	Executive Director
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Full name	**Dr. Eugenie L. Birch**
Nationality:	USA
Organization/Institution:	Penn Institute for Urban Research, University of Pennsylvania
Time:	Moderator
Position:	Nussdorf Professor and co-Director
Contact address (Email):	elbirch@upenn.edu

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

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