



Ministers Roundtable

National Action for Equity in Cities and
Development



MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

More and wider collaborations / partnerships

For their effectiveness, equity policies can be supported by cohesion at all levels: local, national and even regional. This requires coherent strategies on urban issues including mobility, security and connectivity. We have two challenges: (i) involve the cities in the processes of decision making, and (ii) ensure that cities are opportunities for inclusion.

Within urban programmes and policies, the issue of affordable housing is central. This can be promoted through production by the third sector (eg the USA) or by the private sector. In this occasion, we are advocating for action. Many countries have developed national strategies with programs which include for example housing subsidies. National policies need to integrate a vision of the city, urban development, quality of life and collaborations with the support of financial institutions, establishing cooperation not only among levels of government but also with the other actors.



MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

Equity is an opportunity for all

Among the key challenges, there is need for a good, effective and equitable national policy that integrates the following aspects:

- (i) accessibility of land and housing,
- (ii) access to basic services like water and sanitation,
- (iii) solid waste management, and
- (iv) maintenance and preservation of the environment. The city has to be considered as a solution rather than a problem.



MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

Smart investments for neighborhood services

The financial crisis was not merely a housing crisis but also an urban planning crisis; and urban planning is an economic development tool. So both state and private investments should consider urban areas as a priority. There are three scales at which one can intervene:

- (i) renovate homes with neighborhood revitalization strategies through empowerment of the third sector to include poor families in the process of security of land tenure;
- (ii) capacity building at the city level;
- (iii) focus on sustainability at the regional level to strengthen resilience to face the climate change



MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

Capacity building for all stakeholders

We have seen that central governments have an important role in policy development towards greater equity. In fact, national regulations have an impact at the local level. Hence, the role of central government is as much important as the role of local governments. However, many actors are involved in the implementation of the urban equity objectives. That raises the question of available resources for each level of government, institutional and technical capacity of both public and private entities, NGOs and academia. Training of elected officials and civil servants of the public sector remains paramount.



Mayors Roundtable

Urban Equity in the New Urban Agenda:
Strengthening the role of Mayors towards
HABITAT III



Cities have to focus primarily on growth AND equity – at the same time

1. City regions and metropolitan areas are the specific level where problems have to be solved
2. More influence on policy shaping at global and national levels
3. Greater resource base to cities providing financial means in securing the future of a better work by cities
4. Public spaces as the center for
5. Public participation for challenges and solutions
6. Greater cooperation's within and among local governments to think out new models of governance platforms



7. Need to ensure that local governments are granted more prominence in voice and and decision of UN-Habitat

Planning and Urban Design for Sustainable Urbanization

- In the public space you build equity in the city and its creative use
- Economic development with equity to be included in planning

Governance

- Social Production of the Urban Habitat
- The agenda of women is an essential element to include
- Anticorruption agenda is key element promoting openness and transparency



8. Need to ensure that local governments have a greater voice on the table, not only about the voice, but be an active member of policy making in the UN instances

9. We have to ensure that the voice of Mayors are present and heard at national government levels and within the international bodies, that debates the future of cities.



Global Parliamentarians on Habitat Roundtable

Urban Equity in Development- Cities for Life:
Role of Parliamentarians



MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

1. Equity is an equal distribution of opportunities, there is a need to level the playing field so everyone benefits in cities.
2. There is a need to reorganize the landscape of our countries, grouping regions appropriately to ensure organized and equitable services for all.
3. In countries where there is a very strong central government there is the need to empower the regions.
4. It is important that the Legislature both plans for the future, but also guarantees equitable opportunities in the current daily lives of the people.
5. There is a need for a better understanding of citizens as the inhabitants of cities- as the soul, the heart, the nervous system of the world's cities.



MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

6. In order for the inhabitants of cities to make wise decisions, there is a need to educate, empower and inform them so they are aware of the policies that they are exposed to.
7. There is a need to promote legislative measures that are powerful enough to organize and correct the current issues that are being seen in cities throughout the world.
8. There is a need to strengthen local assemblies and empower them because they are the ones closer to the realities of the cities.
9. The world is rapidly transforming, there is a need to reconstruct the Ministry's to align with the needs of cities today.



Civil Society Roundtable

A New Urban Agenda responsive to the people's priorities for an equitable urban future



MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

HABITAT III and Civil Society

- Ensure civil society and communities are officially part of the process
 - Participating equally in building the agenda
- Access to land and tenure as critical to “Right to the City”
 - Address causes of urbanization
 - Recognition of the social production of Habitat
- Include the challenges of slums and informal areas
 - Learn where the people are
 - Knowledge is power, support mapping of slums
- Ensure local communities own their own development and resources must be included
- No more discussion without implementation



MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

Post-2015 and Civil Society

- Include targets addressing housing, slums and access to water and sanitation
- Include target focused on well located land with secure tenure
- Bottom up approaches will ensure success – this will require data collection from within slums
- Empower communities to partner as equals with sectors
- Engage women in the planning and implementation



MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

- Co-management/co-responsibilities
- Communities have the solutions
- Women not beneficiaries but participants
- Need for focus beyond urban
- Need resources to implement agendas
- Need for decriminalization of social movements and poverty
- Key areas: Disaster risk reduction, tenure, slum upgrading
- Land, housing and livelihoods connection
- Technical and financial capacity of local governments