



# Special Session 1

High Level Inter-Agency  
Meeting on Habitat III



## **MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:**

1. The role that cities play and will play in increasingly dominating the way the globe looks is relevant to all UN actors, the inputs to the Habitat III process is critical.
2. Urbanization plays a complementary role to the mandates of all UN Agencies and Bretton Woods Institutions- therefore Habitat III needs to be an inclusive process.
3. The timing of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Habitat III process are complementary of each other and this close alignment should not be missed.
4. A multi-stakeholder partnership approach is necessary to ensure a successful Habitat III process.



## MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

5. It is important for all Member States that Habitat III has a profound impact on sustainable development, grounded in the policies and activities that have advanced out of the Habitat II Conference in 1996.
6. Many partners will have an expectation to be engaged in the preparatory processes; therefore accreditation needs to be achieved early.
7. Global and local agendas need to be linked in order to ensure the most is achieved out of the Habitat III Conference.
8. All agencies commit to evolving the Think Piece towards a common position for Habitat III.



## Special Session 2

**Financing the New Urban Agenda**



## MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

- Cities are key to push forward the development agenda today.
- Particularly intermediate or emerging cities are key as they are growing much faster and are prone to greater inequalities.
- To reduce inequality we need to make the right investments in social and physical infrastructure.
- However, cities face many difficulties to attract investment. Some innovative ways to do so are:
  - Public-private partnerships
  - Land value capture
  - Synergies among lending organizations
  - Improving existing fiscal and banking systems to attract private investment



- Urban sustainable development is linked to productive job creation and capacity building which makes cities more attractive for investment.
- We also need to strengthen local institutions to enhance capacity, promote transparency and trust from citizens.
- We need to close the knowledge gap at the local level by promoting financial as well as technical investment, which can come from intermediary organizations or NGOs.
- International organizations must have a double role:
  - a) Knowledge sharing and technical assistance.
  - b) Removing market failures.
  - c) Help cities leverage local (public and private) partnerships and achieve greater fiscal and financial autonomy.

- National governments must:
  - Encourage citizen participation in the design of urban projects to promote trust among taxpayers.
  - Having a greater level of trust allows you to continuously invest and scale.
  - Promote knowledge sharing at the national level.
  - Serve as a catalyst for local development.
  
- There should be an integrated rather than a sectorial approach to sustainable urban development.
  
- Climate change is an opportunity for cities to improve existing infrastructure in a way that reduces the need for long-term financing.





## Special Session 3

South-South and Triangular  
Cooperation



## MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

- 1. Knowledge sharing and building capabilities:** Every efforts must made at all levels to ensure that the sharing of information and experiences contribute improving the knowledge, skills and capacities.
- 2. Among the key mechanisms, the financial arrangements should be made in order to support the ongoing networking and advocacy activities within the context of exchange the south-south cooperation.** There are different types of networks: (i) the ones that are focused on exchange, (ii) the ones that are focusing on learning and doing, (ii) the ones that have the potential to influence and build movements and deepen the dialogue, (iii) and the multilateral institutions that pursue higher standards and are much more able to create an impact on the ground.
- 3. Decentralization of powers and resources** remains key to promote the role of local governments, including in the context of decentralized cooperation. The inter-regional dialogue was also considered important.



## MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

5. The South-South cooperation is no alternative to aid, but more should be done in parallel to support their complementarity. Engaging in programmes such the Slum Upgrading that is implemented with the EU/ACP funds has the potential to move beyond the conversation on urban upgrading to fully embrace the integration of slum communities into larger urban fabric. That is the only way we can address effectively the issues like justice and equity in urban development.
  
6. The role of youth and disabled persons in development was also emphasized.



# Private Sector Roundtable

**INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR A  
NEW URBAN AGENDA**



## MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

**1. Shared fate.** Business cannot succeed in a society that fails. In an era of urban growth, the private sector has a huge stake in shaping the New Urban Agenda for the next 20 years (e.g. good governance, trust in rule of law and enabling environment for investment)

**2. Beyond charity.** The private sector's involvement in urbanism must go beyond philanthropy, toward a new social contract for innovation and partnership in economic development which creates shared value (e.g. quality labor, participatory planning)



## MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

**3. Equity through access.** Smart or value-driven cities of the future understand technology is helpful if it delivers a quality-/outcomes-based approach which allows everyone to access decent services: it is not just any type of innovation or growth

**4. Innovation by private sector and innovation in public governance** Innovation has to be applied to how a city and its actors 'organize' (e.g. social enterprise creating alternative vehicles for women and the poor; softer skills for political leadership and administrative capacity, or national framework for coordinated action)



## MAIN ISSUES EMERGING FROM THE SESSION:

### **5. Localisation and integration during austerity.**

Local stewardship of finite resources which does more with less is about system planning, synergy and adaptive technologies (e.g. clean water, energy from waste, deployment of police for crime prevention).

### **6. Step-change in engagement for scalable**

**solutions.** Any new coalition for joint effort requires both sides changing how they learn and communicate. Companies need to understand more about urbanism. Government needs to understand how to be business-friendly. Scalability requires confidence and insight.