



HABITAT III INFORMAL HEARINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Key Recommendations: Civil Society Organization Partner Constituent Group of GAP

**Jane Katz, Co-Chair, Habitat for Humanity International
Monday, 6 June, 2016**

Co-Chairs, Dr. Clos, Distinguished Members, and Partners:

I am Jane Katz, co-chair of the Civil Society Organization Partner Constituent Group (GAP), and also a member representing Habitat for Humanity International. We appreciate this opportunity to express our views and make recommendations on the zero draft from our very diverse constituency.

The CSO Partner Constituent Group represents many sectors with over 100 member organizations, mostly networks, representing over 1 billion people, but, regardless of sector, civil society organizations have played a critical role as a key partner in bringing its experience to the SDG and NUA goals process. The strength of civil society and its multi-sectoral perspectives is one that uniquely supports and reinforces the 'holistic' and comprehensive approach embodied in the New Urban Agenda and that will be necessary for urban development that is truly people-centered. We stand ready to implement the New Urban Agenda and contribute to our collective vision for more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities.

Many of our GAP members endorse the right to the city as a new paradigm; others prefer cities for all. But we all believe in fostering inclusive cities, particularly for women and vulnerable groups, and eliminating discrimination and spatial segregation based on age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disabilities.

The CSO PCG is supportive of the direction of the New Urban Agenda Vision, including:

- placing “adequate housing and shelter at the center of the New Urban Agenda” and reaffirming Habitat II in “promoting, protecting, and ensuring the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.”
- promoting equitable and non-discriminatory housing policies, and adoption and enforcement of locally appropriate housing regulations and codes.
- advancing urban mobility, economic and social accessibility and healthy cities that incorporate public transport, universal design and other sustainable modes.
- prioritizing secure land rights, especially for women, and important factors such as mechanisms to create more affordable land for shelter and strong land management institutions; and
- developing policy environments that harness and enhance public, private and civil society participation.

To implement this vision and reach scale, we make the following recommendations:

1. expand the permanent affordable housing stock through a balanced approach to rental and homeownership options, and to improve housing conditions by increasing access to basic services and upgrading existing structures to improve resilience;
2. endorse a continuum of land rights and tenure options for rental and homeownership to increase household stability, investment and security of tenure;
3. engage with new market-based adaptive technologies;



4. promote people-centered neighborhood upgrading that fosters long-term community self-managed solutions which can create a pathway to permanence over time, improving health, disaster resilience, climate change adaptation and energy efficiency;
5. redefine the relationships of cities with informal settlements and slums in ways that leave no one behind. Many of these communities are home to essential service workers; teachers, police and fire fighters, entry level government employees and critical informal sector entrepreneurs.
6. encourage participatory management of the territory (including territorial planning; implementation and monitoring of public policies and public budgets), as well access to safe, inclusive, accessible public spaces, multimodal transportation, etc.;
7. support a participatory production of the city and a diverse and inclusive economy; and
8. plan for a responsible and sustainable management of the commons (including natural and cultural resources).

The CSO PCG further recommends renewed commitment from nation states to expand resources and subsidies; create new and innovative finance approaches that engage a responsible private sector and local communities in housing, urban infrastructure, and transit, to name a few; as well as promote effective people-centered, public-private partnerships. The implementation of this vision requires governmental budget transparency, data collection, equal access to information, mutual accountability and responsibility among all stakeholders.

As our contribution, the CSO Partner Constituent Group intends to:

- support the development of evidence-based practices to direct the effective implementation of the NUA, building on the Habitat III issues papers, policy unit recommendations, and consultations via a proposed International Multi-stakeholders' Panel on Sustainable Urbanisation.
- support the development and implementation of the NUA via effective close monitoring, review and reporting of the progress made, including the progressive impact in achieving the New Urban Agenda goals and SDGs and at all multi-stakeholder levels.
- urge the UN General Assembly to strengthen UN Habitat, while ensuring that other UN agencies take full responsibility for playing a role in implementation of the NUA. This requires regular reporting on and analysis of the qualitative and quantitative progress made and should include input from major stakeholders and actors via the use of existing engagement platforms, such as World Urban Forum (WUF), GAP, among others.
- call on multilateral international and regional financial and development organisations to be actively engaged in implementing the NUA by adopting an integrated and coordinated financing and funding strategies to achieve the NUA and SDGs; and
- support a multi-level (global, national, regional & local) and continuous implementation process, undertaken by all stakeholders based on the spirit of collaborative partnerships, learning, exchange and accountability among all. These partnerships will build on existing relationships but also develop new innovative, inclusive, participatory and transparent ones. Civil society's strength is its community-based network. Because coordinating mechanisms and monitoring schemes work only if there is local activity on the ground, civil society can thus be instrumental in coordinating and monitoring results.

Thank you for your consideration.