



**SPEAKERS  
CORNER**

**Habitat III PrepCom3  
Exhibition Hall**

**Monday 25 July  
Daily Summary**

On the first day of the Habitat III PrepCom3 in Surabaya, Indonesia, the Urban Speakers Corner hosted 19 sessions with more than 25 speakers. Sessions addressed various issues related to the New Urban Agenda as a reflection of urbanization over the last 20 years. Mr. Fillippo Boselli from the World Future Council opened the session emphasizing the city should find a path to its own regeneration, through the renewal of its resources, urban ecosystems, public spaces and communities. As a look back on cities recent history, following speaker Dr. Brendan Barrett highlighted how fraud and corruption have been undermining urban development in Europe, and how ethics should now be a critical element of the New Urban Agenda. Informal settlements and housing were discussed, as well as lessons learned from Kenya, China, Australia and Bahrain were presented by Ms. Zhengli Huang, Mr. Steve Bevington, and Dr. Johan Beth.

The discussion then revolved around the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Representatives of UN-Habitat, the French and Indonesian Governments, Fukukoka City, ISOCARP, UCLG, Cities Alliance, UNECE, OECD, and GPEAN joined forces to present case studies demonstrating the crucial aspect of the implementation section of the New Urban Agenda. Mr. Raf Tuts, Mr. Atsuhito Sadakari, Mr. Henry de Cazotte, Mr. Jean-Pierre Mbassi, Ms. Shipra Narang Suri, Mr. Diraj Ajay Suri, Ms. Amie Figueiredo, Mr. Tadashi Matsumoto, and Mr. Bruce Stiftel presented together one of the potential tools for its implementation: the Guidelines (IG-UTP).

Mr. Tom Dallessio, founder of Next City, presented “Next City World Stage”, just before Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjanderadewi of UCLG ASPAC, and Mr. Jeffrey Soule of ICOMOS took stage and discussed on how to integrate culture in policy-making at local level.

The discussion took an interesting turn when the speakers addressed the social function of public spaces within society. Ms. Kristie Daniel and Ms. Debra Efroymsen from HealthBridge advocated for an equal access to public spaces as a way towards gender equality. In a complementary manner, Mr. Shanta Lall Mulmi (RECPHEC) reasserted using the recent Nepal earthquakes catastrophes, that public spaces played an essential part in the mitigation of the disaster’s effects.

Ms. Nihal Said of UN MGCY and Ms. Marina Joseph of YUVA questioned whether children and youth were too young to play a role in sustainable urban development.

The following session “Refugee Crisis in Cities”, led by Ms. Leyla Sen (UCLG-MEWA) particularly retained participants’ attention, leading to a spirited debate. Cities are major hubs of activity, at the crossroad of refugee’s journeys. Cities are key in managing refugees streams in a way that will create value for the city, its inhabitants and of course the refugees.

Of note were Ms. Giovana Beltrao’s (World Vision International) discussion “Youth in Action-Partnering for Change”, as was the talk “Monitoring and Evaluation of Quality of Life & Equity” within the context of Tehran, given by Dr. Farhad Sadr (Municipality of Tehran).

Mr. Rolf Alter and Mr. Raf Tuts (OECD & UNHABITAT, respectively), then spoke on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, later followed by a discussion of the critical role of local and regional governments in the New Agenda’s implementation, given by Ms. Emilia Saiz (Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments).

The theme of equality has been a recurrent one throughout the intervention, as a topic of inclusion, and as a tool to enhance governance. Ms. Soon Young Yoon, the representative of Women’s Environment and Development Organization, emphasized the key role of the NUA in gender equality. Ms. Célestine Ketcha Courtès Mayor of Bangante, Cameroon advocated for the recognition of local authorities at an international level. Most speakers of the Urban Speakers Corner agreed that local authorities should play an important role in the upcoming discussions, as cities will be the main protagonists of the New Urban Agenda’s implementation. The first day of Habitat III’s Prepcom3 closed with the discussion, “Crowdsourcing data for safer cities and sustainable community engagement”, given by Ms. Supreet K Singh (Safecity).



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