



**SPEAKERS
CORNER**

**Habitat III PrepCom3
Exhibition Hall**

**Wednesday 27 July
Daily Summary**

Urban Speakers Corner (USC) continued its engagement on the third day of Prepcom III. On this day, USC's main discussion focused on community/local empowerment and sustainable urban mobility.

USC began with the Indonesian Morning Session, which discussed the engagement of local peoples in sustainable development. Mr. Joni Hermana of Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember Surabaya promoted a paradigm shift when he suggested a people-centered approach to development. This change in the development paradigm will prove that a sustainable city is a city that is not subsistent on government assistance only. The local community should also be engaged in taking the initiative to develop its own capacities. Strongly supported by Mr. Bernardus Dioneopetro of the Indonesian Association of Planners, who was keen to remind that if we create cities for people, we must observe and recognize what the actual needs of a given community are. As the representative of planners, Mr. Dioneopetro strongly remarked that planners should be the key partner in achieving sustainable development.

Other issues discussed included the matter of inclusive cities and human rights, with a focus towards the needs of people with disabilities, led by Mr. Aska Yosuki (Faculty of Law Tarumanegara University), and the means of ensuring greater access and equality in urban dwellings. It was also noted that creating an inclusive city is not only about building the facilities that allow for greater access for the disabled, but more about how that access enables those individuals to reach their optimal potential, for example in making it simpler to perform their right to vote. An inclusive city entails an educated and enfranchised city, in which every citizen is strongly encouraged to evolve their own potential for being a positive agent of change. Mr. Agus Maryono (Gadja Mada University) furthered the discussion on infrastructure in vulnerable communities through a talk on river restoration and harvesting natural rainwater in a safe and environmentally sound manner. The Indonesian session were concluded with a ceremonial session, presided over by Mr. Hasto Wardoyo (Kabupaten Kulonprogo), wherein awards were handed to various distinguished journalists and poster presenters.

Our goal continues to be the creation of urban dwellings with substantial digital, physical and economic capacities, in which no one is left behind. A talk given by H.E. Mr. Harimanana Rabe (Directorate General of Land Planning and Infrastructure of Madagascar), on sustainable development in Madagascar emphasized the need for greater engagement and capacity building, as did Ms. Tupi Amritwar Vaitla (Mumbai Environmental Social Network) and Dr. Camilius Lekule (African Union of Architects), who outlined a plan for systematic upgrading of slums. A consensus amongst both speakers and audiences emerged on the fact that a barrier-free city will ensure universal participation in every aspect of life in a given society, including for those with disabilities. All were eager to send a petition regarding the involvement of the disabled in all development sectors and ensure their access to the New Urban Agenda.

Of further note were the contributions by Dr. Bharat Dahiya, Dr. Anjali Mahendra, Dr. Mahesti Okitasari & Dr. Herlily (Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; World Resources Institute, Washington DC; United Nations University, Tokyo; Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta) on the three macro-pillars of development: social, economic, and environmental, complimented by Mr. Arab Hoballah & Mr. Raf Tuts (UNEP, UN-Habitat), who outlined the benefits of greater efficiency and the environmental contributions of greener strategies in dealing with waste management, transport and resource efficiency.

Discussions also sparked interest in issues of sustainable urban mobility, which brought forth a tremendous and lively discussion. Ms. Zou Kota-Fredericks, who serves as South Africa's Deputy Minister of Human Settlements noted that habitat functions not just as house or dwelling, but as an indication of the type of mobility that links to the house. Many speakers concurred, voicing the importance in promoting the idea that safety of mobility in a city as a human right. Sustainable urban mobility necessitates that future cities should have an integrated transportation system, thus reducing the use of fuelled vehicles. Mr. Andre Dzikus (UN-Habitat) paid the group a complement by encouraging people to realize that better street design, including better public transportation, will strongly discourage fuel use in transportation and contribute to the attractiveness of cities.

An additional section of events corresponded towards manners in which a healthier more productive society, such as Mr. Marcio Deslandes & Ms. Debra Efrogmson's (European Cyclists Federation, World Cycling Alliance & Work for a Better Bangladesh) discussion on the remarkable and effective contributions the bicycle has made towards the productivity of urban spaces. Further talks on electric energy by Mr. Jakob Baum (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)) and Urban Mobility by Mr. Olivier Gumpert (Doppelmayr/ Garaventa Group) clarified some of the most critical

challenges and opportunities posed by the creation of sustainable urban development, as did later the contribution by a multi-organizational panel composed of Mr. Avi Silverman, Mr. Hogler Dalkmann, Mr. Brian Sriphrahastuti and Mr. Saul Billingsley (FIA Foundation, UNICEF, WRI, Save the Children and the Government of Brazil).

The day ended with a highly informative talk by Mr. Nicholas You, Ms. Eugenie Birch, Ms. Christine Auclair, Mr. Bert Smolders and Mr. Didier Vancutsem (Arcadis for the World Urban Campaign) on the far-sighted prerogatives in achieving the kind of city we need through the New Urban Agenda.

Throughout the three days of Urban Speakers Corner, many discussions were pertaining to equality, the empowerment of local peoples, inclusiveness, and human rights, among others. The experience opened minds and created a greater dialogue in thinking of our cities and our world. We are becoming better informed insofar as the kinds of needs cities require, as well as the critical importance in understanding our role in developing sustainable urban infrastructure. This will be difficult without the input local people, governments, private sectors, academics, youth, as well as local wisdom, culture, and so forth. Such principles of inclusivity will prove to be indispensable in facing a new future for the cities of the world through the New Urban Agenda, in which no one should be left behind.



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