Event Details

Title of event

SPECIAL SESSION: PREVIEW OF THE URBAN AGENDA PLATFORM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA AND URBAN RELATED SDGs
Tuesday, 11 February 2020 | 16:30 hours – 18:30 hours | Hall 4: Room C

Organization Details
UN-HABITAT

Summary

The Tenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) takes place under the overall theme of: “Cities of Opportunity: Connecting Culture and Innovation”. Along with culture and cultural diversity, WUF10 focus on cities as hubs of innovation—a key factor to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) held in 2016.

All United Nations Member States endorsed the New Urban Agenda, recognizing its transformative potentials and the shift of paradigm that it brings on how we plan, build, manage and govern cities, as well as in the need for urban policies and integrated actions at all levels. The effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda should contribute to the realization of 2030 Agenda and accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the achievement of SDG11, as well as other goals and targets. There is no blue print for the implementation of the sustainability principles brought forward in the New Urban Agenda, as the patterns, progress and challenges of urbanization are different across regions and countries, and urban development processes are complex, context-specific, multi-layered, and incremental.

National governments are expected to deliver on the New Urban Agenda by supporting: (i) sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty; (ii) sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all; and (iii) environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development. Meeting these transformative commitments requires concrete actions and measures in a range of areas, such as national urban polices, rules and regulations, urban planning and design, urban basic services, housing and slum upgrading, risk reduction and resilience, capacity development and climate resilience mitigation and adaption.

The New Urban Agenda also recognizes the critical role of other stakeholders including local governments, private sector, civil society organizations, academia, NGOs, UN agencies, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, during implementation and follow-up; monitoring and reporting on the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat is in this Special Session providing a preview of the global Urban Agenda Online Platform. This initiative aims to respond to the need to systematize updates on progress and enhance knowledge sharing and innovations related to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The
Platform will provide a virtual forum as an effective learning and exchange platform for all stakeholders for the reporting of the NUA implementation progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda on SDGs.

The overall objective is to offer a one-stop shop which will facilitate knowledge-sharing, monitoring, and reporting on progress, and thereby accelerate the implementation of the NUA to achieve the SDGs, and provide linkages to their relevant platforms. UN-Habitat’s coordination of the NUA is in direct support of the UN Systemwide Approach to Sustainable Urbanization and directly linked to UNDESA’s Partnerships for SDGs Knowledge Platform.

The first UN Secretary General’s Quadrennial Report on the Implementation of the NUA was prepared in 2018 in close consultation with UN regional economic and social commissions, over twenty UN agencies, and other development and research partners. The NUA Reporting Guidelines, the Urban Indicators Database, and the Best Practices Database linked on the Platform will provide a strong base of initial content for a robust, comprehensive and collaborative structure in preparation for the next Quadrennial Report in 2022 and up to 2036.

The Urban Agenda Platform Core Offerings to be launched at WUF 10 include:

1. **Voluntary Reporting**: A centralized, virtual reporting mechanism based on the Reporting Guidelines accessible for the Member States will facilitate the preparation of voluntary, multi-level, participatory, and transparent country reports. Inputs of other key stakeholders and processes will be incorporated where appropriate.

2. **Knowledge management**: Build on existing and new knowledge platforms and resources, to leverage the collective experience and knowledge of partners to avoid duplication, to facilitate knowledge generation and sharing in support of NUA and SDGs implementation.

3. **Linkage to Global Urban Indicators database platform**, a one-stop-shop of all urban data; Provide an interactive mechanism to visualize data from progress and demonstrate impact of the implementation of the NUA and SDGs.

4. **Best Practice Database**: A uniform, decentralized storage of data and documentation will capture and share inspiring breakthroughs and success stories, demonstrating results and impacts and identify practices that can be scaled-up.

5. **Learning and Capacity Development**: Support evidence-informed country-level action for impact on through capacity development and curated, state of the art knowledge.

6. **Engagement and Participation**: Tools, stakeholder engagement and online communities that accelerate networking globally. Interactive resources such as webinars, podcasts, online courses, e-groups, videos and events

The WUF10 Special Session is designed to provide an opportunity for representatives of national governments and their partners to share their views on how monitoring and reporting can best be supported and later shared through the Urban Agenda Platform, as well as express their potential needs for support in this endeavor.

The outcomes of the Special Session will inform next steps for the support of reporting on the New Urban Agenda, and the sharing of these efforts through the Urban Agenda Platform. These next steps should be considered in view if the mid-term review of the New Urban Agenda which is scheduled to take place in 2026.
Objectives:

- To introduce the immediate available visual functions of the Urban Agenda Platform.

- To discuss and learn how monitoring and reporting on the New Urban Agenda can best be supported.

- To exchange views on how the Urban Agenda Platform can best serve different user groups and knowledge requirements.

- To explore initiatives to collaborate on the Urban Agenda Platform, to support increased and sustained investment in sustainable urbanization.

- To exchange ideas on new milestones at the national and global level and the requirements for monitoring and reporting on the Urban Agenda Platform.

EVENT COORDINATION:

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Director, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat  
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Âsa Jonsson  
External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Division, UN-Habitat  
Email: asa.jonsson@un.org
# Programme Agenda

## #WUF10, #URBANAGENDA, @UN-HABITAT

### 16:30 - 16:35
**Opening Statement**  
Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif - Executive Director UN-Habitat, 5 min

### 16:35 - 16:45
**Preview of the Urban Agenda Platform**  
Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat, 10 min

### 16:45 - 17:30
**Objectives and the global need for a monitoring platform**
1. H.E Abdou Karim Fofana – Minister of Town Planning, Housing and Public Hygiene in Senegal – 5 min
2. Ms. Emilia Saiz – Secretary General – UCLG, Global Task Force - 5 min
3. Mr. David Dodman – Director, Human Settlements International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) - 5 min
4. Ms. Sanna-Mari Jäntti – Director, Strategic Initiatives, City of Helsinki, Finland- 5 min

Question by the Chair to Panelists, followed by audience Q&A (15 min)

### 17:30 - 18:25
**Partner implementation mechanism and roll-out of platform**
1. Laila Baker – Regional Director for Arab State, Development Coordination Office – 5 min
2. Mr. Steven Weir - Vice President, Habitat for Humanity – 5 min
3. Beth Chitweke – Biti - Deputy Director, Slum Dwellers International Secretariat 5 min
4. Ms. Elizabeth Milsom – Programme Lead, UK Prosperity Fund Global Future Cities Programme- 5 min
5. Mr. Okan Geray - Strategic Planning Advisor, Smart Dubai – 5 min

Question by the Chair to Panelists, followed by audience Q&A (15 min)

### 18:25 - 18:30
**Closing Statement**  
Nicholas You – Urban Specialist, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation 5 min
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<th>NAME</th>
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| **Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**<br>Executive Director<br>UN-Habitat | Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif (Malaysia) was appointed Executive Director of UN-Habitat at the level of Under-Secretary-General by the Secretary-General, following an election by the General Assembly on 22 December 2017. On 22 January 2018, Ms. Sharif assumed her post at UN-Habitat’s Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. 

Prior to this appointment, Ms. Sharif was the Mayor of the City Council of Penang Island, Malaysia. In 2011, she became the first woman to be appointed President of the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai. As mayor, she led the Municipal Council of Seberang Perai to achieve its vision of a “cleaner, greener, safer and healthier place to work, live, invest and play.” She is a champion of Gender-Responsive Participatory Budgeting and Planning, integrating gender perspectives into the governance process. |
| **Raf Tuts**,<br>Director, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat | Rafael Tuts is Director of Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat. Previously he was coordinator of the Urban Planning and Design Branch of UN-Habitat, promoting compact, integrated and connected cities that are inclusive and resilient to climate change. He has also contributed to overseeing the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch of UN-Habitat, with a focus on the ‘Housing at the Centre’ approach and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. Following the Rio+20 Conference, he coordinated UN-Habitat’s engagement in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals. He authored and co-edited several publications on a wide range of sustainable urban development topics. 

Together with colleagues from the World Bank, UNEP and Cities Alliance, he received the World Bank Vice-President Team Award in 2011 for global partnership building on Cities and Climate Change. He also received ISOCARP’s 50th Anniversary Award in 2015, in recognition of UN-Habitat’s urban planning work. Before joining UN-Habitat in 1995, he worked for the Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning of the University of Leuven in Belgium and the Housing Research and Development Unit of the University of Nairobi. In 1985, he obtained a Masters of Science degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Leuven. |
| **H.E. Abdou Karim Fofana**<br>Minister of Town Planning, Housing and Public Hygiene in Senegal | H.E. Abdou Karim Fofana is the Minister of Town Planning, Housing and Public Hygiene in Senegal. He also served as Director General of the State Built Heritage Management Agency (AGPBE) since October 2015. He has established the ministerial spheres of Diamniadio (100,000 m² of office space completed in 24 months) some 30 km from Dakar, and which now house today fifteen ministries. The realization of this project not only helped to reduce the rental bill of the State, but also contributed to the congestion in the Senegalese capital. 

Academically, Abdou Karim Fofana is a graduate of the Faculty of Law at Jean Moulin University in Lyon (France) and the Bordeaux Management School (BEM) in Dakar (Senegal). He works to achieve the commitments of President Macky Sall: to make Senegal a country with Zero waste and Zero slum, notably through the promotion of a better living environment and the construction of 100,000 social housing units by 2024. |
<p>| Emilia Sáiz | Emilia Sáiz is Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). She has worked with the international movement of local and regional governments in different capacities since 1997, leading |</p>
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<th>Ms. Emilia Saiz</th>
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<td><strong>Secretary General - UCLG Global Task Force</strong></td>
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<td>She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, and has followed and represented local and regional governments in iconic international processes such as the Rio and Beijing +20 as well as the Climate Agreement, the SDGs and Habitat III and facilitated the contributions from local constituencies to the United Nations process.</td>
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<th>Mr. David Dodman</th>
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| **Director, Human Settlements**  
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** |
| David Dodman is an expert on climate change vulnerability and resilience in urban centres. His work focuses on understanding the nature of urban risks, and the way in which daily hazards, major disasters and climate change can affect low-income urban residents. |
| At IIED, he works with local organisations, international agencies, and universities to understand to build the resilience of individuals, households, communities and cities. Regional focus in eastern and southern Africa, and Southeast Asia. |

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<th>Ms. Sanna-Mari Jäntti</th>
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<td><strong>Director, Strategic Initiatives, City of Helsinki, Finland</strong></td>
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<td>Sanna-Mari Jäntti is the Director of Strategic Initiatives at the City of Helsinki Mayor’s Office. Previously she was Director and Senior Advisor at Miltton Group where she was responsible for the Guggenheim Helsinki initiative and several other non-profit and NGO development projects. Prior to working with Miltton Group she has been Development Director for the World Design Capital Helsinki 2012, Marketing and Development Manager for Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art and acted in several positions within the field on non-profit development and strategy.</td>
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<td>Jäntti is currently spearheading strategic projects in Helsinki with special emphasis on major culture, arts, sports, events and urban development initiatives.</td>
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<th>Ms. Laila Baker</th>
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<td><strong>Regional Director for Arab State, Development Coordination Office</strong></td>
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<td>Ms. Laila Baker comes from a background in family health policy from Cardiff University and 25 years of international experience in both humanitarian and development settings with a focus on the Arab region. She has served with a number of international agencies that support sexual and reproductive health and rights programs globally.</td>
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<td>Ms. Baker’s history includes employment with UNDP in Jerusalem and International Planned Parenthood Federation’s Regional Office in Tunisia.</td>
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<td>She has been the Director for UNRWA’s Relief and Services Program at HQ in Amman, Jordan from 2014-2016 where she instituted a series of reforms to the poverty and social inclusion programs in addition to promoting community stabilization in refugee situations, particularly for young people. Ms. Baker has an 18-year career with UNFPA, where she served in Palestine, Geneva and most recently as UNFPA Representative in Syria from 2012-2014. Ms. Baker resumed her new duties as UNFPA Representative to Jordan as of 04 January 2017.</td>
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| **Mr. Steven Weir**  
*Vice President, Habitat for Humanity* | Steven Weir is Vice President of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI), responsible for its global program development and support in over 90 countries. He joined HFHI as a founding board member for a local affiliate in California in 1986, and in 1993, moved to Sri Lanka to start its country HFHI program, and rising to the role of Vice President for HFHI operations in Asia and the Pacific. Weir is a registered architect, with degrees in Architecture and Engineering, and prior to his work with HFHI, he spent 16 years in private practice with an architecture and real estate development firm based in San Francisco, but with projects throughout the Pacific rim. |
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| **Beth Chitweke – Biti**  
*Deputy Director, Slum Dwellers International Secretariat* | Beth Chitekwe-Biti recently joined the SDI secretariat as Deputy Director. Before moving to SDI, Beth was the Founder Director of Dialogue on Shelter, a Zimbabwean NGO that's working in a unique alliance with the Zimbabwe Homeless People’s Federation a movement organised in urban poor neighbourhoods to push for secure tenure and inclusive human settlements.

The two organisations are affiliated to the global movement of slum dwellers, Slum Dwellers International. Beth holds a planning degree from the University of Zimbabwe, a Postgraduate Certificate in Housing from the University College of London and a PhD in Development Policy and Management from the University of Manchester.

She is an expert in provision of clean water, livelihoods, improved living conditions, sanitation and youth job skills. Her regional focus is in Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa. |
| **Ms. Elizabeth Milsom**  
*Programme Lead, UK Prosperity Fund Global Future Cities Programme* | Elizabeth Milsom is the Lead of the Global Future Cities Prosperity Fund Programme, under the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Originally trained as a chemist, her career has been in Programme Management with a demonstrated history of working in Government.

She worked as Project Manager for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and as Senior Scientific Officer for the Department of Energy and Climate Change. She has a strong programme and project management background with skills across Science Policy, Sustainable Development, Innovation Management, Energy Policy, Energy Efficiency, and Environmental Awareness. |
| **Dr. Okan Geray** | Dr. Okan Geray has more than 20 years’ experience as a management consultant for various industries and countries. He worked at A.T. Kearney’s global management consulting firm before joining the Dubai Government in 2002. He has worked in Dubai eGovernment, Dubai Smart Government, and more recently as the Strategic Planning Advisor in Smart Dubai Office following its establishment. His responsibilities include strategic planning, strategic performance management, policymaking, and global thought leadership. He was co-chair of the “Enhancing Innovation and Participation” |
| **Strategic Planning Advisor Smart Dubai Office DUBAI** | working group in United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) joint global initiative with ITU and UNECE which addressed smart governance, smart economy, and smart people aspects of smart cities. He has led the publication of two global products for U4SSC, *Guidelines on Strategies for Circular Cities* and *City Science Application Framework*.  
Okan was also co-chair of the “Data Economy Impact, Commercialization, and Monetization” working group in the ITU Focus Group on data processing and management. He is currently co-rapporteur of ITU Study Group 20 Question 7 on “Evaluation and assessment of Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities”. He is a member of the SDG11 Global Council. He holds double major B.S degrees in Industrial and Computer Engineering from Bosphorus University in Istanbul Turkey, and an M.S degree and Ph.D. in Systems and Control Engineering from the University of Massachusetts in the USA. He has published journal and conference papers and book chapters and has been an adjunct lecturer in management for 15 years. |
| **Nicholas You**  
*Urban Specialist, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation* | Nicholas You is a veteran urban specialist and thought leader. He served as the senior policy and planning advisor to UN-Habitat and the manager of the Habitat II Conference held in Istanbul in 1996. He is the founder and honorary chairman of the UN-Habitat World Urban Campaign Steering Committee, Chair of the Urban Strategy and Innovation Council for ENGIE, the co-Chair of the Global Cities Business Alliance, former chairman of the Assurance Group for Urban Infrastructure of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. He is a member of the board of Citiscope, the Huairou Commission and the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities and serves as a director of the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation and as an adjunct to the Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore. He regularly advises central and local governments, industry and civil society organisations on strategic planning and governance. |