

Implementing the New Urban Agenda to Drive Sustainable Change

Monday, 10 February 2020, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Halls 2-11, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC), Abu Dhabi

Detailed Scenario:

Background:

With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, urbanization has been recognized as a key transformative force to achieve sustainable development. The battle for sustainable development, and the climate crisis, will be won or lost in cities. 65% of the SDG targets are at risk if urban stakeholders are not assigned a clear role in the implementation of the agenda. Cities are keen to localize the SDGs as evidenced in the increasing number of Voluntary Local Reviews. Cities have a clear role in ending poverty (SDG1); improving health (SDG3); reducing inequality (SDG10); promoting inclusive and sustainable growth, and full and productive employment (SDG8); ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG12) and combating climate change and its impacts (SDG13), including through implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures (SDG7). A full NUA implementation – getting ‘our cities right’ (SDG11) - will catalyze progress across the SDGs, with urban and nature-based solutions essential to deliver the change needed (as pointed at during the SG’s Clime Action Summit). Lastly, urbanization has also resulted in an accelerated accumulation of risk. The NUA implementation is critical to alleviate that risk (Sendai Framework) and ensure resilience against all possible shocks and hazards, including latent stress from increasing resource scarcities. Our urbanizing world is not homogenous. A vast part of the world is already predominantly urban but now struggles to ensure quality urbanization by “retrofitting” the current reality towards the climate goals and to overcome inequalities. Other parts are still fast urbanizing, with its urban areas expected to double in size over the next decades. The chances to reach SDG11 are in the urban space, “to be planned” and “to be built”, new and refill. However, an increasing percentage of urban growth is poorly planned, undercutting the transformative potential of urbanization, severely affecting the environment, adding to the pollution of air and water, and bringing whole ecosystems to the brink of collapse. This is particularly true in fragile settings, affected by protracted or recurrent crises, where displacement is fueling high rates of urban growth with only limited capacity to deal with it. Urban crises however offer opportunities to put urban areas on a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth trajectory. We need better forecasting on where the current trends will lead us so we can galvanize the needed action today. The global call for a Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development by 2030, launched by the Secretary-General, pushes us to think how we can use innovation and culture to fast track sustainable urbanization. We urgently need to identify what will be the key drivers for sustainable change in an integrated and holistic way. Advances in technology, and their impact on our economies and the future of work are reshaping our cities. In this regard, it is essential to mobilize the private sector to ensure innovation helps to deliver on the global targets. Driving sustainable change, requires an anchoring in local culture, to maximize the acceleration and needed behavioral shifts innovation can bring. Culture is not limited to the cultural heritage, but is dynamic, and formed around the identity, soul and intangible values of a place and its people associated with it.

Guiding Dialogue:

This Dialogue will explore the following questions:

- I. How can the NUA implementation drive sustainable change, and accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and other relevant global agendas? How can we ensure that in the process no one and no place is left behind, overcoming growing inequalities?
- II. What are the key elements, considering the current trends, to change the way we plan, we build, we move people and goods and we consume while sustaining our natural environment and using nature's potential to be part of the solution?
- III. The New Urban Agenda calls for its implementation across a diverse urbanizing world, including in fast urbanizing settings, affected by conflict and being risk-prone. What challenges and opportunities does this bring with it for the implementation for the New Urban Agenda and the outcomes it can contribute to, including sustaining peace where relevant? How does it help to localize global agendas?
- IV. What role does culture and innovation play in the implementation of the NUA and its transformative commitments - social inclusion and ending poverty which ensures that no one and no place is left behind; sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all; and environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development?

Format:

The event will include two panel discussions featuring national and city decision-makers and representatives from other relevant stakeholders. Panelists will be invited to showcase specific, concrete and impactful initiatives, as well as innovative mechanisms that can be deployed to address the three main NUA transformative commitments.

1. Leaving no one behind and fighting against poverty
2. Urban prosperity and opportunities for all
3. Ecological and resilient cities and human settlements.

Each speaker will have 3-6 minutes to showcase their respective talking points. A short period for audience and written questions will follow after each panel has presented.

Moderator: Ms. Jasmine Pang, President, Branding Shanghai, China

SCENARIO

Panel 1 [80 min]

Thought leaders

1. Ms. Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value, University College London, UK
2. **Keynote:** Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat **[10 min]**

National Governments

3. **H.E. Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, United Arab Emirates**
4. Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta, Under-secretary of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico and President of the UN-Habitat Assembly

City/Local Governments

5. Ms. Khadijah Ahmadi, City of Nili, Afghanistan, Mayor
6. Mr. Sergey Levkin, Head of the Department for Urban Planning Policy, Moscow

World Bank

7. Mr. Sameh Wahba, Global Director for the World Bank's Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, World Bank,

Other

8. Ms. Sheela Patel, Founder and current chairperson of Slum Dwellers International
9. Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
10. Ms. Marjeta Jager, Deputy-Director-General of Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of The European Commission

Panel 2 [80 min]

Thought leaders

1. H.E. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji
2. Mr. Ricky Burdett, Professor of Urban Studies, London School of Economics
3. Ms. Wendy Pullan, Professor of Architecture and Urban Studies, University of Cambridge, UK

National Governments

4. Ms. Maria Sofia Issufo dos Santos, National Director of Housing and Urbanization, Mozambique

Local Governments

5. Ms. Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor of Banjul, The Gambia

United Nations

6. Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme
7. Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
8. Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction

1st Panel (9:15am-10:35am) [80 min]

9:05 – 9:10am	Ms. Mariana Mazzucato, Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value, University College London, UK [10 min]
9:10 – 9:20	<i>Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif UN-Habitat Executive Director</i>
9:28 – 9:29am	Moderator asks other speakers to make initial remarks [1 min]
9:29 – 9:32am	H.E. Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, United Arab Emirates [3 min]
9:32 – 9:35am	Ms. Martha Delgado Peralta, President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, Under-secretary of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico and President of the UN-Habitat Assembly [3 min]
9:35 – 9:38am	Ms. Khadijah Ahmadi, Mayor, City of Nili, Afghanistan [3 min]
9:38 – 9:41am	Mr. Sergey Levkin, Head of the Moscow Department for Urban Planning Policy [3 min]
9:41 – 9:44am	Ms. Sheela Patel, Founder and current chairperson of Slum Dwellers International [3 min]
9:44 – 9:57am	Moderator transitions to interactive panel discussion with initial speakers [13 min]
9:57 – 10:00am	Mr. Sameh Wahba, Global Director for the World Bank's Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land Global Practice, World Bank [3 min]
10:00 – 10:03am	Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP [3 min]
10:03 – 10:06am	Ms. Marjeta Jager, Deputy-Director-General of Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of The European Commission [3 min]
10:06 – 10:19am	Moderator transitions to interactive panel discussion with later speakers [13 min]
10:19 – 10:32am	Round of exchange with audience [13 min]
10:33 – 10:35am	Moderator summarizes key messages, thanks panel and requests next panel to take their seat [2 min]

2nd Panel (10:35am-11:55am) [80 min]

10:35 – 10:38am **Moderator** transitions to 2nd Panel and briefly introduces line up **[3 min]**

10:38 – 10:42am H.E. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, The Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji
[from lectern] **[4 min]**

10:42 – 10:48am Mr. Ricky Burdett, Professor of Urban Studies, London School of Economics **[6 min]**

10:48 – 10:54am Ms. Wendy Pullan, Professor of Architecture and Urban Studies, University of Cambridge, UK **[6 min]**

10:54 – 10:55am **Moderator** asks other speakers to make initial remarks **[1 min]**

10:55 – 10:58am Ms. Maria Sofia Issufo dos Santos, National Director of Housing and Urbanization, Mozambique **[3 min]**

10:58 – 11:01am Ms. Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor of Banjul, The Gambia **[3 min]**

11:01 – 11:04am Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director, UN Environment Programme **[3 min]**

11:04 – 11:07am Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia **[3 min]**

11:07 – 11:10am Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction **[3 min]**

11:10 – 11:40am **Moderator** transitions to interactive panel discussion with later speakers **[30 min]**

11:40 – 11:53am Round of exchange with audience **[13 min]**

11:53 – 11:55am **Moderator** summarizes key messages, thanks panel and starts conclusory remarks **[2 min]**

Closing Remarks
<i>11:55 – 12:00pm</i> Moderator closes the session and thanks the audience, speakers, and relevant stakeholders [5 min]

Layout of [the venue] and seating arrangements:

*Layout of the venue for respective sessions will be shared once the session-room allocations are confirmed.

Seat 1	Seat 2	Seat 3	Seat 4	Seat 5	Seat 6