WUF10 Grassroots Assembly
Building Cultures of Inclusion and Innovation:
Grassroots-Led Actions to Create Opportunities for All
SDI, Huairou Commission (other partners TBC)
Saturday 8 February 2020, 10:00 – 18:00, Abu Dhabi

Grassroots Assembly Objectives
- Provide a platform for organized groups living in conditions of informality to contribute their visions and plans for urban development and sustainable urbanization and to exchange and elaborate on a common vision towards leveraging culture and innovation to transform people’s lives;
- Advocate for people-centred solutions for innovations and culture taking into account grassroots groups successful initiatives and expertise;
- Co-frame, with governments and other relevant stakeholders, the priorities and needs for support to building on the body of knowledge and effective initiatives led by grassroots groups on the ground;
- Co-create meaningful partnerships and exchange to contribute with a common voice during the World Urban Forum and in subsequent policy documents, committing to strengthen and increase the impact of bottom up approaches towards the creation of inclusive and collaborative urbanization that addresses inequalities as it advances development and growth for all.

Background
The Grassroots Assembly is a platform designed to give voice to communities including those that are living in the conditions of informality, including lack of tenure security and decent basic services, to provide inputs into the accelerated implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the “Urban Goal”, SDG11.

In line with the theme of the World Urban Forum “Connecting Culture and Innovation”, the grassroots assembly will provide a platform for grassroot organizations, community leaders and their partners to reflect on the needs and opportunities to ensure that local knowledge, innovations and diversity are included in the development agenda.

Grassroot organizations - in linkage with communities and other partners - are key to ensure social inclusion and cultural integration for sustainable development. Furthermore, organized grassroots communities are important stakeholders to ensure the Right to the City for all and achieve the realization of human rights in cities – including the Right to adequate housing, water, sanitation, civic engagement – as they have already implemented local solutions based on the needs of the communities such as organizing and enumerating their settlements, initiating and co-designing slum upgrading and slum relocations program, building relationships with local authorities and key departments for concrete collaborations. Taking into account the added value of grassroots and communities, engaging with them as a key stakeholder in urban development will contribute to inclusive economic growth for cities that are diverse, affordable and accessible to all.

Grassroot organizations are then the catalyst for the mobilization of local knowledge and innovations that can be leveraged for upscaled impact to ensure the sustainability and the cultural adequacy of the actions towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

Guiding Questions
- How to ensure that the needs, solutions and initiatives of grassroots associations and organized communities of the urban poor are taken seriously and included in the current development framework? What kind of support is needed?
Based on the experiences of grassroots groups and their partners, what is needed to continue building meaningful partnerships? How can grassroots groups identify worthwhile opportunities that could enhance the results of ongoing actions on the ground?

What are gaps and opportunities for addressing cultural adequacy and applying innovative approaches to overcoming inequality and exclusion?

How can the local know how, successes, and lessons learnt by grassroots groups and organised communities of the urban poor be leveraged for innovation at scale?

**Event Programme**

**Master of Ceremony:** Beth Chitekwe-Biti, acting MD of SDI Secretariat

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<th>Time</th>
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| 09:00 - 10:00 | Joint Opening ceremony, together with Youth, Business and Women Assemblies  
UN-Habitat Executive Director + UEA (host) + UN sister agency/RC + Women, Youth and Grassroots representatives |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Break                                                                    |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | **Opening – Grassroots Achievements since 2018**                           
Speakers:  
- Rose Molokoane, SDI Management Committee & grassroots leader from South Africa  
- Violet Shivutse, Huairou Commission Governing Council Chair & grassroots leader of Shibuye Community Health-Workers, Kenya  
- Mr. George Wesonga, Chief Executive Officer I Civil Society Urban Development Platform |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | **Panel 1 – Impact of grassroots partnerships and tools in NUA implementation: A stocktake of what we have achieved since the start of the SDGs**  
Moderator: Beth Chitekwe-Biti, acting MD of SDI Secretariat  
Speakers:  
- Ms. Sarah Nandudu, co-chair of SDI Board and grassroots leader from Uganda  
- Ms. Josephine Castillo, DAMPA federation of urban poor, Philippines  
- Mr. Drissa Coulibaly, Technical Advisor of the Minister of Habitat, Urbanism and Social Housing. |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | **Panel 2 –Benchmarking the current needs and opportunities of grassroots community organizations to insure participation is at scale and sustained**  
Moderator: Mino Ramaroson, Huairou Commission Africa Regional Coordinator  
Speakers:  
- Ms. Bimbo Oshobe, Grassroots leader from Lagos, Nigeria  
- Ms. Relinda Sosa Perez, CONOMAVIDI / GROOTS Peru  
- Mr. Ahmed Habib, Founder, Ezbet Community Center, Egypt |
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<td>11:45 – 12:15</td>
<td>Panel 3 – Building meaningful partnerships: Channels for coordination between grassroots organizations and with external partners</td>
<td>Moderator: Beth Chitekwe-Biti, acting MD of SDI Secretariat&lt;br&gt;Speakers:&lt;br&gt;  • Ms. Bindu Shrestha, Community Women’s Forum, Nepal&lt;br&gt;  • Mr. Zilire Luka, Executive Director, CCODE Malawi&lt;br&gt;  • Mr. Solomon Tetteh, PSUP Gamashie Community Representative, Ghana</td>
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<td>12:15 – 12:45</td>
<td>Panel 4 - Addressing cultural adequacy and applying innovative approaches to overcoming inequality and exclusion</td>
<td>Moderator: Mino Ramaroson, Huairou Commission Africa Regional Coordinator&lt;br&gt;Speakers:&lt;br&gt;  • Ms. Laurinda Godjo, urban planner, Benin&lt;br&gt;  • Ms. Ann Wanjiru Mbuthia, MHLARA Kenya&lt;br&gt;  • Ms. Subrina Parvin, Community Women Representative, BRAC, Bangladesh</td>
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<td>12:45-12:55</td>
<td>Keynote speech by Ms. Sona Jobarteh, UN-Habitat Goodwill Ambassador, The Gambia</td>
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<td>12:55 – 13:15</td>
<td>Questions &amp; Answers</td>
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<td>13:15 – 14:00</td>
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<td>14:00 – 15:00</td>
<td>Participant breakaway sessions: (split those present into three groups)</td>
<td>Facilitators: Jhocas Castillo, Sarah Nandudu, Rose Molokoane&lt;br&gt;  • How to ensure that the needs, solutions and initiatives of grassroots associations and organized communities of the urban poor are taken seriously and included in the current development framework? What kind of support is needed?  • Based on the experiences of grassroots groups and their partners, what is needed to continue building meaningful partnerships to incorporate bottom-up innovation by grassroots in implementation of NUA / SDGs?  • Role of grassroots organizations in supporting diversity and cultural sensitivity towards the achieved NUA and SDGs</td>
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<td>15:00 – 16:00</td>
<td>Report back from breakaway sessions: Agreement on key recommendations and outcome conclusions</td>
<td>Moderator: Beth Chitekwe-Biti, Acting MD of SDI Secretariat&lt;br&gt;  • Plenaries, moderator and rapporteur agree internally on key recommendations and outcomes  • Each group presents their findings to full room for 5 min, to be followed by 5 min discussion (timings must be sharp)</td>
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<td>16:00 – 16:30</td>
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| 16:30 - 17:00 | Closing Panel: Leveraging local know how, successes, and lessons learnt by grassroots groups and organised communities of the urban poor for innovation at scale  
Moderator: Beth Chitekwe-Bitti, Acting MD of SDI Secretariat  
Speakers:  
- Sheela Patel, chair of SDI Board and Executive Director of SPARC India  
- Hon. Hajah Zuraida Kamaruddin, Minister for Housing and Local Government of Malaysia |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | Joint Session Closing Ceremony  
UN-Habitat Executive Director, representatives from the Women, Business, Youth and Grassroots Assembly |