1. Session’s official title
Remembering Neal Peirce: The Pioneer of Urban Journalism

2. Subtitle of the session (if any)
The past and future of urban media

3. Leading Branch/Unit/Partner Organization(s)
Citistates Group

4. Focal Points (Name and email)
Gregory Scruggs, Gregory.scruggs@gmail.com
Nicholas You, Nicholas.you@citistates.com

5. List of Partners contributing to the session, if any
General Assembly of Partners (GAP)
Former members of the Citistates Group
Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation
Thomson Reuters Foundation
SLoCaT
World Enabled
Perkins Eastman
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

6. Focal Points in the partner organizations (Name and email), if any
General Assembly of Partners: Eugenie Birch, elbirch@upenn.edu
Citistates Group:
Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation
Thomson Reuters Foundation: zoe.tabary@thomsonreuters.com
SLoCaT: maruxa.cardama@slocatpartnership.org
Perkins Eastman: T.Liebman@perkinseastman.com
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy: anthony.flint@lincolninst.edu
World Enabled: Victor Pineda, victor@worldenabled.org

7. Key words
Urban journalism, Neal Peirce, UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour, Urban Innovation

8. Objectives of the session (max. 150 words)
Offer friends and colleagues of UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour winner Neal Peirce the opportunity to give brief remembrances; discuss the future of urban-focused journalism

9. Brief Summary with introduction of the topic (max. 300 words)
Neal Peirce was a veteran U.S. journalist who passed away in late December 2019 at the age of 87. He pioneered the craft of urban journalism – reporting on cities and local government issues as vital concerns for mainstream media, as opposed to the near exclusive focus on national politics more common at the time. He came to see cities as a solution rather than a problem much earlier than the mainstream discourse, which was still mired in the “urban crisis” of the 1960s. In August 1996, in the follow-up to the Habitat II Conference, Neal authored a syndicated column that appeared in several prominent newspapers on UN-Habitat’s work on best practices – a concept that was rarely used at the time in the public sector. The editorial provided a key impetus to UN-Habitat’s seminal
work on best practices and local leadership for years to come. Through his reporting, books, consultancies, and publications and associations that he founded such as Citistates and Citiscope, Neal contributed greatly to the field. This remembrance of his illustrious career will also pivot to discuss the future of urban media.

10. Linkages to the New Urban Agenda, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (max. 250 words) *Indicate the commitments or effective and innovative implementation actions of the New Urban Agenda, and related Sustainable Development Goals

Media has been recognized by the General Assembly of Partners as a component of delivering on the New Urban Agenda and SDGs. Communication of urban solutions is essential to achieving both agendas.

11. Guiding Questions (min. 4 - max. 6 questions)
- What was your relationship to Neal Peirce?
- How did Neal Peirce’s writing influence your perspective on cities?
- What is the future of urban journalism?
- How can the media tell the story of cities that are taking action on the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs?

12. Indicate expected outcomes for this session (max. 50 words)

Stories and anecdotes about Neal Peirce that will help extend his legacy; including material for a possible published appreciation of his life and career. A renewed focus on the role of the media in disseminating urban issues. Awareness and fundraising for a proposed urban journalism grant in Neal Peirce’s honour.

13. Describe monitoring and follow-up mechanisms for this session and its outcomes, including innovations (max. 100 words)

Published articles from WUF and related activities

14. Outline the format of the session (max. 150 words)

30 minutes of remembrances – up to 5 minutes per person
30 minutes of moderated discussion on the future of urban journalism

15. Proposed key speakers and moderator(s)

* Indicate full name of the speaker/moderator (Mr./Ms.), nationality, Organization/Institution, position and contact address. Take into account the balance in gender and age, region and partner type, and new partners.

First Half: Remembering Neal Peirce

Moderator: Mr. Gregory Scruggs, independent journalist (USA)

Mr. Eduardo Moreno, Director of Research, UN-Habitat (Mexico)
Ms. Eugenie Birch, President, General Assembly of Partners (USA)
Mr. Ted Liebman, principal, Perkins Eastman (USA)
Ms. Maruxa Cardama, Secretary-General, SLoCaT, the Partnership on Sustainable Low-Carbon Transport (Spain)
Mr. Anthony Flint, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (USA)

Second Half: The Future of Urban Media
Moderator: Mr. Nicholas You, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation (China)
Mr. Christopher Swope, Deputy Editor, Bloomberg Cities (USA)
Ms. Zoe Tabary, editor, PLACE / Thomson Reuters Foundation (UK)
Mr. Bill Fulton, Director, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University (USA)
Mr. Victor Pineda, President, Pineda Foundation and World Enabled (USA / Venezuela)

16. Indicate any necessary facility and equipment
   n.a.

17. Comments/Additional information
   n.a.