

## TEMPLATE FOR WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTES

### 1. Session proposed title

Grassroots Assembly

### 2. Subtitle of the session/tag-line (if any) Grassroots Assembly: Scaling community-level interventions to localize the SDGs and build back better from Covid-19

### 3. Focal Point(s) (Name and email)

UN-Habitat, Land Housing and Shelter Section assigned focal points:

Kerstin Sommer ([kerstin.sommer@un.org](mailto:kerstin.sommer@un.org))

George Gachie ([george.gachie@un.org](mailto:george.gachie@un.org))

### 4. Moderator – Joseph Muturi, Chair of the SDI Board, SDI International [muturijoe34@gmail.com](mailto:muturijoe34@gmail.com)

### 5. List of Partners contributing to the session, if any

#### Grassroots-led organisations:

- SDI (Asia/Africa)
- Huairou Commission (Global)
- Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (Asia)

#### Supporting organisations:

- Habitat for Humanity
- UN-Habitat Regional Offices
- UN-Habitat Social Inclusion Section
- UN-Habitat Basic Urban Services Section

### 7. Key words

Agents of change; Locally-led action; partnership, Innovation and Technology; Vulnerable Communities; Inclusive Development; Adequate Housing, Local Knowledge, Public Health; Financing Partnerships; Transparency and Accountability; Local Economic Development; Livelihood; Service provision, Social protection; Inclusive governance

### 8. Objectives of the session (max. 150 words)

The Grassroots Assembly will aim at:

- Recognising the contributions and roles of the grassroots to localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and building back better post COVID-19
- Elaborating on partnership opportunities and mechanisms between grassroots organizations, local and national governments, financing partners and other stakeholders
- Engaging in a networking platform for greater community resilience

### 9. Brief Summary – abstract (max. 300 words)

Grassroots organisations are primarily made up of civilians advocating a cause to spur change at local, national or international levels. They are associated with bottom-up decision making, encouraging community members to contribute by taking responsibility and action for their community.

As first responders to any crises, grassroots organisations have been, and continue to be, at the front lines of the response and recovery efforts to the COVID-19 global health crisis. The pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated many of the chronic stresses urban poor communities live with and struggle against daily. As such, effective solutions to « build back better » need to be about more than COVID-19 recovery : they must work as a force to accelerate progress towards a more equitable, sustainable, inclusive, healthy and resilient future.

SDG localization is understood as the process of transforming the SDGs into reality at the local level, in coherence with national frameworks and in line with communities' priorities. UN-Habitat promotes the New Urban Agenda as the action-oriented framework to achieve the SDGs at local level.

Over many decades, organised grassroots communities have shown that they are critical contributors to solutions which are a better fit to the local context. Because they understand the multifaceted realities best, they have the social networks and systems in place to respond efficiently and effectively to disasters and chronic stressors.

The Grassroots Assembly will focus on how organised grassroots groups are addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, the initiatives and tools they employ to ensure sustainability and resilience and how they are adapting the lessons learned in developing their recovery plan and programmes. It will demonstrate that organised grassroots groups have the information, knowledge, and skills to work with government and other stakeholders to implement effective, scalable solutions to chronic and acute urban challenges.

## **10. Guiding Questions for discussions**

- What are entry-points for grassroots organisations to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) transforming the standard of living locally?
- How can we build new partnerships with the learning from covid-19 towards post-covid community resilience?
- What do grassroots organisations need to co-create with partners? What are areas that need to be complemented? What is needed most urgently and next? How can those be connected to local and national policy making?

## **11. Expected outcomes and impact (max. 50 words)**

- Recognition of the contributions and roles of grassroots organizations in addressing both practical and strategic priorities towards safer and resilience cities and communities.
- Identification of good practices and tools to strengthen ongoing partnership frameworks and mechanisms and initiate new ones
- Share lesson-learned on building effective and sustained partnerships between grassroots organisations and other stakeholders

- Provide a roadmap for grassroots organizations to contribute to and localize the Sustainable Development Goals

## 12. Outline the format of the session (max. 150 words)

The grassroots assembly will be a whole day event (9am – 6pm). The suggested event structure will include:

The format will include keynote speakers from the Grassroots and UN-Agency leading on localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and come out stronger post COVID-19 with multi-level collaboration and fit for purpose co-creation systems. This will be followed by projection of statements from Grassroots initiatives all over the world. There will be 4 panel discussions and presentation of Case Studies on successful multi-level approaches and a roadmap for collaboration to achieve localization and monitoring of global goals. Breakout sessions on three selected thematic areas followed by debriefing to the plenary. The Assembly will start and end with opening and closing remarks respectively and will conclude with a consolidation and presentation of a summary of recommendations to feed the final WUF 11 Declared Action.

All participants and attendees will have an opportunity to make statements from the floor and engage the speakers through Q&A. Other communication channels and tools will also be available to help capture additional contributions from participants during the WUF11 week. The online discussion and the outcome report will be shared with the WUF11 drafting team and all participants

## 13. Proposed key speakers and moderator(s)

Use the following table for proposing the speakers and moderators.

Below is a preliminary list to be discussed with collaborating partners and the WUF Secretariat to ensure fair distribution of speakers.

	Name	Position/Title	Organization	Gender	Nationality	Email for invitation
1	Mr. Amadou Sall	Secretary	PSUP Community Village Committee	Male	Senegal	Yes
2	Ms. Theresa Carampatana	SDI Board member	Philippine National Federation	Female	Philippine	Yes
3	Ms. Beth Chitekwe Biti	Director	SDI	Female	South Africa	Yes
4	Ms. Lajana Manandhar	Coordinator	ACHR	Female	Nepal	Yes
5	Mr. James Mwanjau	Deputy Executive Director	Civil Society Urban Development Platform	Male	Kenya	Yes

6	Ms. Violet Shivutse.	Chair of Governing Council	Huairou Commission	Female	Kenya	Yes
7	Ms. Elsa Maria Hernandez	Women Leader	Mujeres, Democracia y Ciudadanía	Male	Mexico	Yes
8	Ms. Grazyna Czajkowska	Representative	Congress of Urban Social Movements	Female	Poland	Yes
9	Ms. Catherine Epse Tondje	Head of Monitoring, Evaluation and Scaling	CODAS, DOUALA,	Female	Cameroon	Yes
10	Mr. Oliver Von Malm	Founder	Start Somewhere	Male	Germany	Yes
11	Ms. Ingridt Ciego	Community Leader	Fundacion Guatemala	Female	Guatemala	Yes
12	Mr. Ala Talbi	Director	Tunisian Forum for Economics and Social Change	Male	Tunisia	Yes
14	Ms. Veronica Katalushi	Coordinator	People's process on Housing and Poverty	Female	Zambia	Yes
15	Ms. Laurinda Emmanuelle Godjo	Project Manager	Bohicon municipality, Benin	Female	Benin	Yes
16	Mr. Joseph Kimani	Director	SDI, Kenya	Male	Kenya	Yes
17	Mr. Witold Gawda	Representative	Congress of Urban Social Movements	Male	Poland	Yes

#### 14. Indicate any necessary facility and equipment

Networks of community-based groups and initiatives will be reached out and given the opportunity to join virtually or to participate in key discussions with tools such as online poll tools or through recorded statements.

Adequate video conferencing and equipment to allow for virtual participation will be needed including a screen for projection of statements, videos and poll results.

#### 15. Comments/Additional information

The Grassroots Assembly aims at achieving stronger multi-level collaboration for effective localizing the sustainable development goals. Supporting community led approaches and building synergies with local stakeholders to ensure we achieve transformation at the community level.

The Assembly will provide an opportunity for discussion and call to action on transforming communities through multi-level partnerships, towards localisation of the global goals.