

## WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

### **Civil Society and Grassroots Organisations Roundtable**

*Co-creation to transform cities and communities towards a better urban future (to overcome inequalities)*

#### **1. List of Partners Contributing to the Session:**

##### **Internal:**

- Policy Legislation and Governance Section
- Planning, Finance and Economy Section
- Land Housing and Shelter Section
- Partnership and Local Government Unit
- Regional and Liaison Offices

##### **External:**

- Habitat for Humanity International
- SDI (Asia and Africa)
- Techo (Latin America)
- Huairou Commission (Asia and Africa)
- Cities Alliance
- New European Bauhaus
- Congress of Urban Social Movements (Polish Association of urban social movements and urban activists)
- Shining Hope for Community (SHOFCO)
- University of Warsaw
- Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
- UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE)

#### **2. Key Words:**

Inclusive governance, reducing inequalities, partnerships, community-led transformation, finance, adequate housing, accountability and transparency, systems, mechanisms, and frameworks

#### **3. Objectives of the Session:**

- Establish what co-creation means, what pre-conditions and systems are needed and what potential it has for sustainable transformation.
- Make the case for co-creation and deep dive on integrated approaches, outcomes and impact of co-creation in diverse contexts.
- Elaborate on ways of scaling co-creation and what integrated urban development with co-creation at the core would mean for our future cities.

#### **4. Summary:**

Co-creation has become a buzz word in the world of sustainable urban development and has been increasingly adopted in the development sector. **Co-creation** is an iterative,

equitable process that removes barriers for all actors to meaningfully contribute their knowledge and skills to achieve sustainable and scalable solutions. This approach brings together various actors as partners to collectively produce a mutually agreed outcome, using participatory and inclusive processes that ultimately reflect ownership, shared decision-making and accountability.

The roundtable will reflect on contributions of civil society and grassroots organisations, local and national governments, private sector and other partners in promoting and performing co-creation frameworks. Special emphasis will be placed on pre-conditions and systems needed to scale co-creation. The discussion will particularly be focused on which governance and financing systems are needed to integrate co-creation in sustainable urban development, with civil society and grassroots levels at the heart of it.

Inclusive institutions with good governance are required to promote and enforce policies that address social inequalities, particularly with regards to under-served and other vulnerable groups. Important elements of good governance include transparency and accountability, which create trust between the government and society. Ease of access to information and modern communication tools can help to build an interactive and collaborative environment. Co-creation creates a unique space and opportunity for this collaboration and integration between CSOs, grassroots organisations, Governments, private sector and other stakeholders. This process strengthens not only the existing governance structures, but also creates greater access to and distribution of financing opportunities at various governance levels, towards meaningful and lasting outcomes for cities and communities.

The roundtable will provide an opportunity for organisations from around the world to share experiences, success stories, strategies, and make recommendations for community-led transformation. The roundtable will also hear voices from diverse stakeholders through two-minute pre-recorded messages on the topic.

#### **5. Guiding Questions for Discussions:**

- What are the preconditions and institutional frameworks required for co-creation to be successful? What are the solutions and how do we move from participation and inclusion to co-creation?
- How can we use co-creation as a tool to increase transparency and accountability from national, subnational, and local governments and other partners?
- What collaborative strategies and financing opportunities can be used to achieve localisation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals?
- What are the necessary components of win-win partnerships between grassroots groups, civil society, national, subnational, and local governments, private sector, and other development stakeholders?

#### **6. Expected Outcomes and Impact:**

- Gain knowledge of effective co-creation between governments, private sector, NGOs, civil society and grassroots-led practices

- Provide a roadmap to monitor stakeholder's engagement and implementation of co-creative actions to enhance accountability and transparency at all levels
- Represent a call to action for stakeholders to strengthen the role of CSOs and grassroots organisations (towards achieving the NUA and SDGs)
- Collect inputs for the development of programmes (UN-Habitat and other partners)

## **7. Session Format:**

The format will include a keynote speaker on Co-creation in the realm of multi-level inclusive governance and finance to set the tone and focus the discussion. This will be followed by a panel discussion of 4 panellists to present Case Studies on successful co-creation approaches. There will be a second panel discussion that will focus on a roadmap for co-creation to achieve localization, including monitoring of SDGs and the New Urban Agenda in the decade of Action. The Roundtable will start and end with opening and closing remarks respectively and will conclude with a consolidation and presentation of a summary of recommendations.

During the roundtable, participants will have an opportunity to respond to 3 questions on the topic of co-creation, inclusive governance and finance in cities for all, using Mentimeter (if made available). An online platform 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