

## WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

### PARLIAMENTARIANS ROUNDTABLE

*Aligned policy and decision-making processes in transforming cities and communities for a better urban future*

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

##### Internal:

- Policy Legislation and Governance Section
- Partnership and Local Government Unit
- Regional and Liaison Offices

##### External:

- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Cities Alliance
- UN-Habitat Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE)
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF)

#### 2. Key Words:

- Policy recommendations
- Role of parliamentarians and policy makers
- Multi-stakeholder National Habitat Committees
- Inclusive Governance
- Partnerships
- Finance
- National development frameworks

#### 3. Objectives of the Session:

- Deepen the understanding among parliamentarians and policy makers on the centrality of urbanization as a building block for achieving a sustainable and transformative development
- Assess mechanisms to review legislation for its compatibility with core international and national principles and the issues outlined in the SDGs and NUA.
- Make recommendations for and monitor effective legislation for policy implementation and executive action.
- Identify means of cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst various fora of Parliamentarians.

#### 4. Summary:

Global milestones such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda have provided opportunities and support for member states to address urbanization.

Visible national-level efforts geared towards responding to the challenges and opportunities of the urban world include the prioritization of development frameworks for infrastructure, housing, health, education, climate change, and women's and children's rights. In most cases these efforts remain an issue fully managed by the national government and thus the need for a strengthened connection between national priorities and the needs of the population. Parliamentarians and policy makers can fill this gap.

The ultimate hypothesis of this roundtable is that the 2030 Agenda can only be fully achieved if lawmakers and decision-makers had a unified position in supporting an initiative that involves all actors, including non-governmental entities.

The main holdups for a broader urban sector response towards transformative cities for a better urban future are: (a) limited local and national capacities to address urbanization challenges, aggravated by limited documentation and dissemination of good practices; (b) limited funding for planning and managing urbanization, particularly at the local level; (c) a combination of a lack of political will; and (d) national urban policy and legal frameworks that do not fully respond to key indicators of global urban commitments.

Global efforts are currently underway to strengthen the role of all partners. But without visible support through parliamentarians and policymakers' initiatives, all these efforts remain inadequate in delivering the ambitious urban agenda.

Opportunities for engagement of parliamentarians and policy makers include:

1. Engagement in UN-Habitat intergovernmental meetings
2. Technical and policy advice to UN-Habitat
3. Support urban advocacy initiatives at the national, regional, and global level.
4. Contribute to the production of knowledge products.
5. Promote housing and urban development as priority areas for development.

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

- How can parliamentarians and other policy makers provide recommendations on the New Urban Agenda into government policies?
- How can parliamentarians ensure alignment of government priority areas of development to global level commitments?
- What effective initiatives can parliamentarians and policy makers implement to support monitoring of progress made by governments in advancing the 2030 Agenda?

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

- Urbanization for achieving sustainable and transformative development, 2030.

- Information on practices and policy options to harness urbanization
- Promote engagement opportunities in the work of UN-Habitat
- Roadmap to develop and action parliamentarians' initiatives to support sustainable urban development.

#### **7. Session Format:**

The event will consist of an opening and a closing session, a keynote message, two presentations of case studies, and panel discussions. The presentations and other background documents, to be shared later, will inform the discussions. A summary of recommendations will be drafted prior to the forum and adopted before the closing.