

## WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

# NATIONAL URBAN FORUMS – STRATEGIC PLATFORMS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SDGs AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

### 1. Key Words:

National Urban Forum, National Urban Agenda, National urban policy, multi-stakeholder platform, SDG localization, Subnational Urban Agendas

### 2. Objectives of the Session:

The aim of the session is to discuss the challenges and achievements of National Urban Forums as multi-stakeholder platforms for increasing awareness and adding inclusivity and relevance to the urban development debate, as well as providing broad-based and holistic substantive inputs to urban policies formulation, implementation and monitoring processes.

The different NUF hosts cases will also facilitate the discussion on how to best contribute to the Decade of Action by supporting the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals; and better mobilize financial and political support for national urban development processes.

### 3. Summary:

Following the approval of the New Urban Agenda, National Urban Forums – NUFs- have become relevant as national-level multi-stakeholder platforms to facilitate a wide meaningful and inclusive participation in policy debates on sustainable urban development.

At WUF9, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030 called for supporting “the creation and consolidation of inclusive platforms and agendas for dialogue among all levels of government, decision makers and stakeholders such as regional, national and local urban Forums and committees that can strengthen policy review and assessment of impacts.”

To this end, WUF10 gathered previous NUF hosts to exchange lessons learned, outcomes and impacts, and share ideas on how to enhance such platforms. Participants agreed and reaffirmed that the National Urban Forums can promote scaled-up efforts for the Decade of Action, building on international exchanges and collective delivery on the SDGs while mobilizing a wide-range of partners to bring up the urban debates to the World Urban Forum.

As a follow up, two EGMs on NUFs have taken place highlighting the role of NUFs in accelerating implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda in the Decade of Action. These meetings tackled how NUFs play a fundamental role in connecting local, regional and national governments, as well as civil society and non-government partners. Experts highlighted the pivotal role of partnerships and the importance of identifying and including relevant stakeholders (civil society, private sector, academia, UN), contribute to urban policy discussions, and monitor outcomes. In particular, they identified the need for governments to formalise relationships with partners as civil society, and for NUF hosts to actively think about how to bring in other urban actors, such as the urban poor and those living in informal settlements.

This session will provide an opportunity to go further on those discussions and share innovative mechanisms for advancing in the role of these multi-stakeholder platforms to scale-up efforts for the localization of the SDGs. An important element of discussion will also be the current situation in Europe and how NUFs can be a platform to foresee long term solutions in a humanitarian crisis.

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

- How can National Urban Forums be scaled up and become stronger tools for knowledge generation and exchange, grow stakeholder engagement and increase awareness on urban development?
- How can National Urban Forums best support the formulation, implementation and monitoring of urban policies and regulatory frameworks to guide sustainable urbanization?
- How can National Urban Forums be used to foresee for long term solutions in case of a humanitarian crisis?
- How can National Urban Forums better articulate with sub-national and local platforms to strengthen related governance for action?
- What role National Urban Forums play as key platforms for accelerating the localization of the SDGs?
- How can the international dimension of policy making, and exchange of experiences can support multi-stakeholders platforms at the national level?

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

Increase the relevance of national and subnational urban forums as mechanisms for a more inclusive and participatory process in urban development and SDGs localization

Exchange experiences and identify lessons learned in the organization of National Urban Forums among NUF hosts to build inclusive processes and support sustainable urban policies

Develop recommendations to contribute to the World Urban Forum and continue working on implementing the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat being the focal point

#### **6. Session Format:**

The dialogue will last 120 mins. It will feature presentations from representatives of National Urban Forums hosts and include an open debate guided by a set of key questions, during which recommendations will be drawn up.